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FBIS-EAS-92-036 CONTENTS *24 February 1992*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Project Team Formed for CIS Nuclear Plan *[KYODO]* ... 1
Group Formed To Study CIS Telecommunications *[KYODO]* ... 1
Students in 'Confusion' Over Study in CIS *[KYODO]* ... 1
Taipei May Demand Apology Over 'Comfort Women' *[KYODO]* ... 1
Tokyo Studying China's Invitation to Emperor *[KYODO]* ... 2
Itoh Obtains PRC Approval To Form Subsidiary *[KYODO]* ... 2
Polish Envoy Solicits Donations for Museum *[KYODO]* ... 2
Farm Cooperative To Import Indonesian LPG *[KYODO]* ... 3
Japanese Kidnap Victim Released in Colombia *[KYODO]* ... 3
LDP Told To Complete Political Reform Plan *[KYODO]* ... 3
    LDP Politicians Support Reform *[KYODO]* ... 3
Business Leader Seeks 'Early' Political Reforms *[KYODO]* ... 4
Suzuki To Attend Hearing as Unsworn Witness *[KYODO]* ... 4
TV Coverage of Ex-Minister's Testimony Urged *[KYODO]* ... 5
Law Said Unlikely To Stop Funding of Gangsters *[KYODO]* ... 5
Stronger Independent Securities Watchdog Urged *[KYODO]* ... 6
Ministry Decides Not To Sell NTT Shares *[KYODO]* ... 6
Defense Agency Intent on Relocating Headquarters *[KYODO]* ... 6
Workers Demand Wage Hike, Shorter Work Hours *[KYODO]* ... 6
Resort Projects Manifesting 'Funding Problems' *[KYODO]* ... 7
Tokyo Urges Efforts To Stabilize CO_2 Emissions *[KYODO]* ... 8

North Korea

Solarz's Remarks on Nuclear Plans 'Absurd' *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 8
'False Report' on Missiles to Syria Denounced *[KCNA]* ... 9
U.S. War Scenario on Korean Peninsula Decried *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 9
Foreign Firms Allowed in Planned Economic Zones *[KYODO]* ... 10
Cuban Military Delegation Visits, Voices Support *[KCNA]* ... 10
Daily Pyongyang Press Reviewed ... 11
    20 Feb *[KCNA]* ... 11
    21 Feb *[KCNA]* ... 12
    22 Feb *[KCNA]* ... 13
KCNA Reviews 24 Feb NODONG SINMUN ... 13

South Korea

Official Views Economic Consultations With U.S. *[YONHAP]* ... 14
U.S. Urges S-N Nuclear Inspection Before Jun *[YONHAP]* ... 15
No Tae-u Interviewed on DPRK Nuclear Issue *[Seoul TV]* ... 15
No Tae-u Seeks To Involve UN in Nuclear Issue *[YONHAP]* ... 16
Chong Won-sik Sums Up Results of Premier Talks *[Seoul TV]* ... 16
Reports Continue on Nuclear Inspection Issue ... 17
    Seoul Seeks Mid-Apr Inspections *[YONHAP]* ... 17
    Seoul May Urge UN Sanctions *[THE KOREA TIMES 22 Feb]* ... 18
    North Delegate's Remarks Viewed *[THE KOREA HERALD 22 Feb]* ... 18
Newspaper Reports North's Scud Missile Deployment *[SEOUL SINMUN 24 Feb]* ... 19
Exiles Said To Form Anti-Kim Il-song Alliance *[YONHAP]* ... 19

- Majority of People Polled Welcome S-N Accords *[THE KOREA HERALD 22 Feb]* 20
- Reporters Return From Premier Talks in Pyongyang 20
  - DPRK Reality 'Closed' to Visitors *[THE KOREA TIMES 22 Feb]* 20
  - Change in Attitudes Noted *[YONHAP]* 21
- Pre-Approval Required on DPRK Business Deals *[YONHAP]* 22
- North Koreans Face Electricity, Food Shortages *[THE KOREA HERALD 23 Feb]* 22
- Reports on Nationwide Antigovernment Rallies 23
  - Police Brace for Violence *[YONHAP]* 23
  - 'No Serious Clashes' Reported *[THE KOREA HERALD 23 Feb]* 24
- International Drug Dealers Penetrating Market *[THE KOREA HERALD 22 Feb]* 24

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

- Foreign Ministry Statement on Rohingya Muslims *[Rangoon Radio]* 25
- Junta Adds Seven Years to Tin U Sentence *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 22 Feb]* 25
- Troops Prepare To Seize Resistance-Held Manerplaw *[AFP]* 26
  - Young Soldiers Used in Fighting *[AFP]* 27

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

- Defense Minister Meets French Counterpart *[BERNAMA]* 28
- Amendment To Ensure Monarchy's Compliance *[UTUSAN MALAYSIA 18 Feb]* 28

Singapore

- Minister Notes U.S. Objection to EAEC Proposal *[THE STRAITS TIMES 22 Feb]* 28

Cambodia

- Fourth SNC Session Held 22 Feb; Results Noted 29
  - Sihanouk Lauds Peace Progress *[AFP]* 29
  - UN Mission Chief Reports *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 30
  - Communique Issued *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 30
- Sihanouk To Ask UN To Verify SRV Withdrawal *[AFP]* 30
  - Promises April 1993 Elections *[AFP]* 31
  - Wants Resolution to Land Dispute *[AFP]* 31
  - Not To Stay Overnight in Pailin *[AFP]* 32
  - Speaks At Prisoner Release 23 Feb *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 32
- Khieu Samphan Sends Message to UN Chief *[Radio VGNUFC]* 34
- PDK Figures Hold Talks With UNAMIC Leaders 35
  - General Nuon Buno Sends Message *[Radio VGNUFC]* 35
  - Khieu Samphan Consults With UNAMIC Head *[Radio VGNUFC]* 36
- Prince Ranariddh Discusses Current Situation *[Radio VOK]* 37
- Chea Sim Pledges To Carry on Sihanouk Policy *[SPK]* 38

Indonesia

- Alatas Discusses Actions During Dili Incident *[ANTARA]* 39
- Ghali Appreciates Handling of Dili Incident *[ANTARA]* 40
- PRC Minister Meets Suharto; Views Oil Prices *[Jakarta Radio]* 40
- PRC Radio, Film, TV Minister Arrives for Visit *[Jakarta Radio]* 40

Laos

- Communique Issued on Premier's Visit to Thailand *[Vientiane Radio]* 40
- SPA Achievements in 1991 Hailed at Meeting *[Vientiane Radio]* 42
- Savannakhet Governor Meets SRV Counterpart *[Vientiane Radio]* 43

Philippines

- Senator Proposes Purchase of Subic Dry Docks *[Quezon City Radio]* ... 43
    - Soldiers Said Dumping Toxic Chemicals *[Manila Radio]* ... 43
- Reportage on Massacre at Surigao del Sur ... 43
    - Peace Proposal Turned Down *[Manila Radio]* ... 43
    - NDF Challenges Military *[Manila Radio]* ... 44
    - Communists To Probe Atrocities *[AFP]* ... 44

Thailand

- Prime Minister Anan Continues Visit to Hong Kong ... 45
    - Urges Cooperation for Investment *[Bangkok Radio]* ... 45
    - Addresses Gathering of Businessmen *[BANGKOK POST 22 Feb]* ... 45
    - Returns, Reports Successful Trip *[Bangkok Radio]* ... 46
- Board of Investments Opens Office in Hong Kong *[Bangkok Radio]* ... 46
- Tourism Cooperation Agreement Signed With Laos *[BANGKOK POST 22 Feb]* ... 46
- Energy Authority Rejects Plan for Border Plant *[BANGKOK POST 24 Feb]* ... 47
- Foreign Policy Shifts From Receiving to Giving *[Bangkok Radio]* ... 47
- Prachakon Leader Launches Election Campaign *[BANGKOK POST 18 Feb]* ... 47
- Paper Views Problems on Anniversary of Coup *[THE NATION 23 Feb]* ... 48
- Assets Panel Clears Chat Thai Secretary General *[THE NATION 16 Feb]* ... 49
- Former Minister Declared 'Unusually Rich' *[BANGKOK POST 23 Feb]* ... 50

Vietnam

- Relations With CIS Members Viewed *[Hanoi International]* ... 51
- Doan Khue Greets CIS Armed Forces Anniversary *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 51
- Spokeswoman's 20 Feb Statements Reviewed *[Hanoi International]* ... 52
- Vice President Receives Japanese Lawyers *[VNA]* ... 52
- Diplomatic Relations Established With Estonia *[VNA]* ... 52
- Agriculture, Industry Minister Visits India *[VNA]* ... 53
- Vo Van Kiet Receives Thai Businessmen *[VNA]* ... 53
    - Receives Indosuez Bank President *[VNA]* ... 53
    - Receives Malaysian Businessmen *[VNA]* ... 53
- New Joint Business Council With Australia Noted *[VNA]* ... 54
- Nguyen Dy Nien Chairs UNESCO Meeting *[VNA]* ... 54
- Vo Chi Cong Calls on War Veterans Association *[Hanoi TV]* ... 54
- Do Muoi Visits Ho Chi Minh City *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 55
    - Extends Tet Greetings to NHAN DAN *[NHAN DAN 1 Feb]* ... 56
    - Extends Greetings to Army Paper *[TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 2 Feb]* ... 57
- Doan Khue Greets Artillery Officers School *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 57
- Le Quang Dao Visits Labor Protection Institute *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 58
- Hanoi Plans To Build Special Economic Zones *[AFP]* ... 58
- Nationwide Winter-Spring Rice Crop Planted *[Hanoi TV]* ... 59

Japan

Project Team Formed for CIS Nuclear Plan

OW2202121592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1142 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 22 KYODO—The government plans to sponsor an international conference in Tokyo to discuss the control of plutonium and uranium from dismantled nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Union, government sources said Saturday.

The date is not fixed but the conference will be cosponsored by the Paris-based Nuclear Energy Agency, an affiliate of the 24-member Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the sources said.

Japan will call for participation by nuclear experts from countries with advanced nuclear technology, such as Belgium and Switzerland, as well as members of the seven major industrialized countries, they said.

To prevent jobless nuclear scientists of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) from being recruited by Third World countries, the United States, Russia, and Germany agreed Monday to set up an international scientific and technological center to employ the scientists for peaceful research.

It is estimated there are some 30,000 tactical and strategic nuclear weapons in four former Soviet republics—Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan.

There has not been an international agreement on the control of dismantled CIS nuclear weapons.

Japan has set up a interministerial project team to discuss a plan for the dismantled arsenal, which will be submitted to the conference, the sources said.

Group Formed To Study CIS Telecommunications

OW2402082092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0641 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—The Posts and Telecommunications Ministry will inaugurate a forum to study how Japan can help improve telecommunications in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), a ministry source said Monday.

The group, to be formed Thursday, will comprise officials from about 30 Japanese enterprises, including giant domestic and international telecommunications firms, electronics firms, trading houses, and banks, according to the source.

The new organization will work out measures for Japan's cooperation with CIS in telecommunications, the source said.

The council will also invite telecommunications officials from the Russian Federation and other CIS republics for a briefing on the industry in Japan, which would include liberalization of the market, and organize a seminar on the subject in Tokyo in late May.

About 15 officials from CIS republics and Japanese coastal provinces along the Sea of Japan will be invited to the seminar, the source said.

A survey mission will be sent to the CIS republics this summer at the earliest, the source said.

Students in 'Confusion' Over Study in CIS

OW2402090292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0839 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—Confusion stemming from the demise of the Soviet Union has kept 29 Japanese students from studying there under a cultural exchange program, Japanese Education Ministry officials said Monday.

The 15 undergraduates and 14 graduate students were to begin studying for a year in the former Soviet Union on Soviet Government scholarships last September, the officials said.

After the abortive coup last August, the Soviet State Committee for National Education was dissolved.

In early November, the ministry was notified by a Soviet Government official that only four undergraduates and four graduates would be accepted.

The official later informed the ministry it is impossible for the Soviet Union to accept any students due to a stalled budget appropriation, the Japanese officials said.

They said the ministry is reluctant to tell the students to abandon their plans to study in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Japan had a total of 40 students from the Soviet Union in 1989 and 1990 and sent 28 students under the exchange program concluded in 1987.

Taipei May Demand Apology Over 'Comfort Women'

OW2102134092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1325 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Taipei, Feb. 21 KYODO—A group of 43 Taiwanese legislators proposed Friday that Taiwan demand an apology and compensation from Japan for thousands of Taiwanese women who provided sex to Japanese soldiers at frontline camps during World War II.

The members of Taiwan's legislative yuan said 2,000 to 3,000 Taiwanese were conscripted as so-called comfort women.

Wu Tzu, a member of the ruling Kuomintang, said a document he obtained showed that the number of comfort women from Taiwan reached 2,000 to 3,000, not about 70 as Japanese opposition legislator Hideko Ito announced on the basis of Defense Agency documents.

Taiwan was a Japanese colony from 1895 until the end of the war in 1945.

Wu said the Taiwanese comfort women were taken to brothels the Japanese Imperial Army built in Manila. After Japan surrendered, the women were taken to a concentration camp by U.S. Forces, he said.

Another document showed there also were Taiwanese comfort women in Singapore and Malacca during the war, Wu said.

He called on Taiwanese authorities to set up an investigation team and submit a report to the legislative yuan.

Media in Taiwan have been reporting about Taiwanese comfort women since the matter came to the surface, but no women have come forward to say they had been comfort women.

Tokyo Studying China's Invitation to Emperor

OW2402121492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1054 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—Japan is seriously considering a Chinese proposal for Emperor Akihito to visit China later this year as a state guest, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Monday.

Japan "received a strong Chinese proposal to have the emperor visit China and (the government) has decided to consider the proposal seriously," Watanabe told the House of Representatives Budget Committee.

Watanabe made the remark in the Diet in response to Yoshinao Kushihara of the Social Democratic Party, who urged the government to accept the request for the emperor and Empress Michiko to visit China.

His remark came three days after Chinese Ambassador Yang Zhenya expressed the hope at a news conference that Tokyo would arrange the imperial visit to China.

Zhenya also dropped a hint that China wants the emperor to officially express Japan's repentance over the atrocities committed by the Japanese Imperial Army against Chinese civilians and soldiers before and during World War II.

During a trip to China in January, Watanabe conveyed Japan's promise to give serious consideration to Emperor Akihito's visit to Beijing which Japanese Government sources predict may come as early as this fall.

Itoh Obtains PRC Approval To Form Subsidiary

OW2402081892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0545 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—C. Itoh and Co. has obtained Chinese approval to set up in Shanghai a wholly owned subsidiary, the first solely foreign-funded trading company in China, a company official said Monday.

The subsidiary, provisionally called Shanghai C. Itoh and Co., will be established in the Waigaoqiao Bonded Zone with capitalization of 1 million dollars, the official said on condition of anonymity.

C. Itoh is preparing to form the subsidiary April 1 with initial staff of seven to eight people, he said.

The new company will mainly deal with exports and imports as well as reexports, he said.

C. Itoh is a leading Japanese trading house that has 10 representative offices in China. Foreign trade in China has been monopolized to date by China's state foreign trade departments.

Polish Envoy Solicits Donations for Museum

OW2102100592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0821 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—Polish Ambassador to Japan Henryk Lipszyc [name as received] on Friday asked the Japanese people to contribute to a Tokyo-based charity to help construct a museum in Poland to house more than 5,000 Ukiyoe prints, Japanese swords, kimonos and lacquer goods.

Lipszyc, who was named ambassador to Japan last October, told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that the construction of the museum will deepen friendship and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Lipszyc, one of the leading Japanologists in Poland, was a professor on Japanese affairs in the University of Warsaw before he assumed the post of ambassador.

A Japanese charity group and Polish Film Director Andrzej Wajda are collecting contributions for what is called the Wajda Fund. They need 270 million yen to build the museum in the ancient capital of Krakow near the Polish border with Czechoslovakia.

"Wajda and the group have so far collected about 65 million yen from Polish and Japanese people for the project backed by the Polish Government and the Krakow Municipal City Hall," Lipszyc said.

Wajda, who proposed construction of the museum, was quoted as saying he and the group will start building it by the end of the year.

Lipszyc quoted Wajda, an internationally known film director, as saying he had kept the idea of constructing the museum in his mind ever since he was attracted to Japanese traditional arts as an art student.

Wajda donated 40 million yen for the project after he won a prize from a Japanese organization in Kyoto.

Lipszyc said the 5,000 works of Japanese traditional arts to be displayed in the museum were collected by a wealthy Polish collector between the late 19th century and the early 20th century.

Apart from displaying the Japanese art collection, Lipszyc said the museum will hold functions to teach the Japanese language and will publish books about Japanese politics and culture.

Farm Cooperative To Import Indonesian LPG

OW2102124992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1125 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Jakarta, Feb. 21 KYODO—A Japanese farmers' cooperative, the National Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Associations, signed a contract Friday with Indonesia's state petroleum company, Pertamina, to buy liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for three years.

The contract signed by cooperative Chairman Momiyoshi Shigaki and Pertamina's President Faisal Abda'oe will send 25,000 tons of LPG a year at 20 dollars a ton from Bontang Refinery in East Kalimantan to the cooperative. The price includes the shipping fee.

The contract goes into effect in July.

Indonesia currently can produce three million tons of LPG a year and since 1988 has exported 2.5 million tons a year, mainly to Japan.

In the signing ceremony, Shigaki expressed his satisfaction that the contract can be implemented in four months. The deal was mediated by the Indonesian Cooperative Council.

Abda'oe said Pertamina is looking forward to increased cooperation with the cooperative and welcomed its interest in investing in a refinery project in Musi, North Sumatra.

He said the Indonesian Government alone does not have enough capital to build the refinery. The cooperative will send a team to study the project in June, Abda'oe said.

Shigaki said the cooperative bought LPG from Indonesia because it wants to diversify its LPG sources, which traditionally came from middle eastern countries such as Iran, Iraq, and Kuwait.

Last year's Persian Gulf crisis prompted the cooperative to find new suppliers, Shigaki said.

Japanese Kidnap Victim Released in Colombia

OW2302044992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0438 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 23 KYODO—Japanese entrepreneur Koji Nakagawa, who was kidnapped three weeks ago in Colombia, was released in good health Saturday, the Foreign Ministry said Sunday.

The ministry said Nakagawa, 51, arrived in the Colombian capital at about 8 P.M. Saturday after being freed in the southwestern town of Mocoa, where he was abducted by a group of suspected guerrillas January 31. Other details of his ordeal and release were not immediately available.

The native of Obihiro, Hokkaido, has lived in the South American country for 17 years and owns an electrical engineering company there.

Nakagawa is also married to a Colombian woman, the ministry said.

The Foreign Ministry said it telephoned Nakagawa's 78-year-old mother in Obihiro to inform her of her son's release.

Relatives in Obihiro said they were told by an individual in Colombia that Nakagawa had been kidnapped for ransom and that he was not in danger.

LDP Told To Complete Political Reform Plan

OW2102152792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1457 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Friday called on officials of his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to compile a package of political reform bills by mid-March and to enact them during the current session of the Diet, LDP sources said. Miyazawa issued the instructions in a 90-minute meeting with Takashi Hasegawa, head of the LDP's political reform panel, his deputy Shigeru Kasuya, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato, and Home Affairs Minister Masajuro Shiokawa, the sources said.

The prime minister termed as "urgent needs" the correction of disparities in the value of votes in general elections for the House of Representatives and the tightening of controls on political funds. He also called for establishing a system to make public the assets of politicians, for improving political ethics and for holding elections that do not require large expenditures of money.

Friday's meeting was called by the prime minister in the wake of mounting public criticism against the government over scandals involving Kyowa Co. and Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., the sources said.

Last October, the House of Representatives killed a package of political reform bills put forward by the government of former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, designed to overhaul Japan's electoral system, tighten up political funding and provide subsidies to political parties.

LDP Politicians Support Reform

OW2202153392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1518 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 22 KYODO—Senior politicians of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Saturday endorsed Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's stance on realizing, in the current Diet session, a reduction of the wide disparity in the value of rural and urban votes while preserving the current multiseat constituency system.

Miyazawa met Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata, a chief advocate of a single constituency system, as well as Masaru Gotoda, former acting chairman of the LDP's political reform headquarters, and other senior LDP politicians," LDP officials said.

Gotoda told Miyazawa, "We must recognize the realistic need to regulate political funding, stymie political corruption, and reduce the vote disparity."

Referring to a string of recent political scandals, Gotoda said, "At present, the ruling and opposition parties are facing quite hard times before the public. It would be hard to reform politics without this awareness of the crisis."

Hata, chief architect of an abortive single constituency proposal, said, "A current proposal to redress the disparity with cuts of four seats in over-represented rural constituencies and increase of four seats from under-represented constituencies is insufficient."

Earlier Saturday, Eiji Suzuki, the head of a panel on government reform, called on Miyazawa to legislate a law that would ban reelection of politicians who were found to have taken bribes.

Suzuki, chairman of the ad hoc committee to promote administrative reform, made the recommendation during an evening meeting between the prime minister and a select group of politicians, academics, and business leaders at the premier's official residence.

His suggestion came at a crucial moment when Miyazawa's four-month administration is reeling from a string of political funding scandals and a recent defeat in a local parliamentary by-election.

The powerful business leader's call for a ban on reelection bids by scandal-plagued politicians echoed a joint demand by four opposition parties asking for stricter penalties on politicians implicated in bribery-taking scandals.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, the chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations, Japan's most influential business group, said he called on Miyazawa to implement efficacious political reform.

Hiraiwa quoted Miyazawa as replying, "I will grapple with this problem very seriously."

Takeshi Sasaki, a professor of political science at Tokyo University, told reporters he called on Miyazawa to legislate a law that could hold legislators criminally liable if their political secretaries distributed money to buy votes.

Business Leader Seeks 'Early' Political Reforms

OW2402081792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0747 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—Gaishi Hiraiwa, one of Japan's top business leaders, called Monday for an early reform of the Japanese political system, saying Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's political reform plan is not swift enough.

Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), told a news conference that the proposed political reform, which Miyazawa says will be unveiled by November, must be comprehensive to be credible.

Miyazawa, he said, "should demonstrate his resolve to quickly implement political reform." Failure to do so would deepen public distrust of Japanese politics, he warned.

Miyazawa consulted with Hiraiwa and other Japanese business leaders last weekend on his political reform plans.

Hiraiwa told reporters that a reduction in the number of seats for the House of Representatives should be carried out as early as possible. He also called for a greater transparency of political funds, often a source of scandals.

Commenting on the state of the Japanese economy, Hiraiwa suggested an early passage of the new budget plan, an advanced implementation of public works programs and other measures to help spur the stagnant economy.

Suzuki To Attend Hearing as Unsworn Witness

OW2402060092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0204 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki will attend a House of Representatives Budget Committee session Tuesday as an unsworn witness in the Kyowa bribery scandal involving a former state minister, Diet officials said Monday.

The committee took the procedure for summoning Suzuki to the Diet last week.

Suzuki formally informed the House of Representatives secretariat early Monday afternoon that he would accept the summons, the officials said.

Following a two-week-long impasse of Diet business last week, the House of Representatives Budget Committee unanimously decided to summon Suzuki as an unsworn witness, and former State Minister Jun Shiozaki as a sworn witness, to testify in connection with the Kyowa scandal.

Prosecutors investigating the scandal have indicted Fumio Abe, former Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies chief, on charges of taking 90 million yen in bribes from Kyowa Co., a bankrupt steel-frame maker.

Kyowa reportedly gave 160 million yen to Abe, who allegedly told Kyowa the money was needed to obtain Suzuki's help in securing permission to develop a golf course in Ibaraki Prefecture.

Suzuki reportedly admitted in a paper submitted to prosecutors that he received 10 million yen believed to have come from Kyowa.

The former prime minister said in the statement that the money came from Abe but that he later returned it to Abe.

The Miyazawa faction, citing Suzuki's health, had asked that committee board members go to the former premier's residence for the questioning session. LDP executives, however, requested that Miyazawa faction leaders accept Suzuki being summoned in order to facilitate deliberations on a draft fiscal 1992 budget.

Sworn witnesses can be indicted on perjury charges if they give false testimony, but unsworn witnesses cannot be held criminally liable for false statements.

TV Coverage of Ex-Minister's Testimony Urged

OW2402081992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0617 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—A group of Japanese political editors urged House of Representatives Speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi on Monday to allow partial television coverage of a former state minister's Diet testimony on a bribery scandal.

The political editors, representing 18 newspapers, broadcasters and news agencies, also called for an early revision of the Diet testimony law which prohibits live television coverage and picture-taking of sworn witnesses' testimony before the Diet.

The request came a day before Jun Shiozaki, former director general of the Management and Coordination Agency, testifies about his alleged involvement in the Kyowa bribery scandal.

The media representatives sought permission for a television broadcast of Shiozaki taking the oath and signing his name, the political editors said.

They said Sakurauchi explained that the ban on television coverage is now under review by his advisory panel on the parliamentary system.

Sakurauchi said he will convey the media request to lower house Steering Committee Chairman Keisuke Nakanishi and Budget Committee Chairman Shinjiro Yamamura, the editors said.

Law Said Unlikely To Stop Funding of Gangsters

OW2402105492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1038 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—The new law against organized crime does not have the muscle to crack down on legitimate businesses funneling huge amounts of cash to crime syndicates, a top National Police Agency (NPA) investigator said Monday.

"When criminal cases similar to the Tokyo Sagawa scandal take place in the future, the new law cannot be applied to such cases," said Takaji Kunimatsu, director general of the NPA's Criminal Investigation Bureau, referring to a mass loan scandal centered on trucking company Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co.

Kunimatsu, a chief architect of the new law, which goes into force March 1, made the statement at a news conference at the National Press Club.

He said the new law cannot be invoked to regulate so-called "kigyo shatei" firms, or "corporate brothers," obtain funds from or channel money to organized crime syndicates.

Kigyo shatei companies are believed to take advantage of their links with gangsters for business purposes, including forcing evictions for land development in exchange for providing funds to the mob.

Police can only invoke breach-of-trust charges of commercial laws or investment law-related charges to clamp down on mob-funding cases similar to the Tokyo Sagawa scandal, Kunimatsu said.

"We will have to deal with such cases on the strength of breach-of-trust charges or on suspicion of violating investment laws," he said.

In the Tokyo Sagawa scandal, investigators said the company provided some 530 billion yen in direct and indirect loans and loan guarantees to nearly 60 companies, including Hokusho Sangyo Co., a real estate firm allegedly controlled by Japan's second-largest crime syndicate, the Inagawa-kai.

Kunimatsu said police were strongly encouraged by the media's unraveling of details of the string of stock market scandals last summer involving major securities houses and mob organizations.

"The atmosphere to crack down on gangsters somehow was bolstered in the face of the fact that gangsters are managing huge amounts of money as evidenced by the string of stock market scandals," he said.

Last year, subsidiaries of Nomura and Nikko Securities Cos. were found to have loaned 36 billion yen to the late Susumu Ishii, ex-boss of the Inagawa-kai. The money was allegedly used to corner the shares of Tokyu Corp, a railway and department store conglomerate.

Kunimatsu said banks and brokerage houses recently have more often refused gangsters' requests to borrow money, as the spate of scandals has caused a decline in profits as they have alienated customers and lost credibility.

"In the past, the financial institutions used to tell police they have to loan money even to crime syndicates, as they have to make the most of customers," he said.

"Recently, the awareness of these firms has started to change, due to the media coverage of the financial scandals, rather than by our new law," he said.

The new law empowers police to order companies collaborating with gangsters to force reluctant tenants to vacate real estate for lucrative quick resale or land development, or forcibly collecting debts, to stop such practices, he said.

He said the NPA expects the Yamaguchi-gumi, the nation's largest crime syndicate, to use court battles to defend its organization and illegitimate businesses against the law.

"We can prove in court how Yamaguchi-gumi boss Yoshinori Watanabe has collected 2 billion yen annually through various bank accounts in obligatory payments (from their subordinate organizations) nationwide," he said.

He vowed to prove in details which bank accounts the crime syndicate has been using to funnel the money to Watanabe.

Stronger Independent Securities Watchdog Urged

OW2102132592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1147 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—The Japan Federation of Bar Associations published Friday a report urging the creation of an independent securities watchdog to prevent stock market abuses.

The lawyers' body delivered copies of the report to the Finance Ministry, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, other political parties, and the Japan Securities Dealers Association.

The report said the watchdog should be an executive commission independent from the ministry and should have strong law enforcement powers.

It also said the Securities and Exchange Law should be revised to clearly define violations and relief measures should be easily available to victims of illegal activities.

Specifically, the report said the watchdog should be created under Article 3 of the National Executive Organization Law and given enforcement powers, unlike the ministry-affiliated oversight body to be inaugurated in July under article 8 of the same law.

The Fair Trade Commission was established as an independent body under Article 3 of the law.

Ministry Decides Not To Sell NTT Shares

OW2102123792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1148 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—The Finance Ministry has virtually decided not to sell Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) shares for the third consecutive year, ministry sources said Friday.

The sources said the ministry originally planned to sell 500,000 NTT shares for fiscal 1991 ending March 31.

However, with the stock market remaining in the doldrums, the ministry judged it will be practically impossible to sell them by the end of the month, the sources said.

The ministry in December 1989 laid down a policy of selling a total of 2.5 million NTT shares over a five-year period starting in fiscal 1991—500,000 shares yearly.

Defense Agency Intent on Relocating Headquarters

OW2402112992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1057 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—Defense Agency chief Sohei Miyashita said Monday the agency is intent on moving its headquarters from the Roppongi entertainment district in Tokyo despite politiccal opposition to the plan.

Miyashita made the remark in response to questions from Social Democratic Party (SDP) member Yoshinao Kushihara in a session of the House of Representatives Budget Committee.

Kushihara argued that spending 300 billion yen to relocate the agency's headquarters to the Ground Self-Defense Force's Ichigaya Camp in Shinjuku ward would be a waste of taxpayers' money.

Kushihara pointed out that the agency completed a 9 billion yen central command system at the Roppongi headquarters in 1983.

Miyashita, however, said the relocation would make more effective use of government land.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa expressed his support for Miyashita's argument, saying the agency should not be based in entertainment areas such as Roppongi.

The agency was originally scheduled to complete construction of its new headquarters in 1995. But the relocation plan has been delayed since ancient remains were discovered at the camp.

Workers Demand Wage Hike, Shorter Work Hours

OW2402042192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0105 GMT 24 Feb 92

["New Focus" by Tadashi Matsumoto]

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—Japanese labor has kicked off this year's "spring labor offensive" in a slowing economy, demanding wage increases of 8 percent—or an average 20,000 yen per month—in negotiations with management.

Such wage hikes will be hotly contested by employers, who are seeking 2.5 percent or less, but both sides seem to agree basically on a need to cut Japan's long working hours, which foreign trading partners say unfairly thwart competition.

The leader of Japan's biggest labor group, Akira Yamagishi, said achieving the 8 percent demand is the only way to stimulate the domestic economy and help ease trade friction with other countries.

"We must fight with management in this year's annual wage negotiations not only to defend our standard of living but also to help keep Japan's pledge to foreign countries on stimulating domestic demand," Yamagishi told a meeting of his organization, Rengo, the Japanese Trade Union Confederation.

The eight-million-strong Rengo—the world's third largest trade union movement, comprising most of Japan's private- and public-sector unions—argues that Japanese employers have failed to provide workers with their fair share of corporate profits.

Even Akio Morita, chairman of Sony Corp., has admitted that Japanese businesses put more emphasis on investing in plant and equipment to strengthen their competitiveness than on distributing profits to workers, Rengo officials say.

But Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren), rejected labor's claim, saying that with Japan's long economic boom ended, employers cannot meet labor's wage-hike demands.

"Wage hikes should be curbed to less than 2.5 percent as the Japanese economy has slowed down," Nagano said in a recent speech. "Employers and employees should turn more attention to shorter working hours."

Indeed, management and labor have agreed in principle to cut working hours, including overtime hours, to promote a more affluent lifestyle and to dodge criticism from foreign countries.

Rengo has set a target of reducing annual working hours in Japan some 11 percent to 1,800 by fiscal 1993 ending March 1994, from the 2,016 hours logged in 1991. Working hours are now 50 to 350 longer than in the United States, Germany, France, and Britain.

Rengo vows to increase its efforts to bring working hours below the U.S. average of 1,950 hours by March 1993.

Five major steel companies—Nippon Steel Corp., NKK Corp., Kobe Steel Ltd., Kawasaki Steel Corp. and Sumitomo Metal Industries Ltd.—have decided to offer workers two or three more days off a year, industry sources said.

Takuji Yamahara, manager of Nikkeiren's labor policy division, said, "Employers and employees should make every effort to change their consciousness to enjoy life rather than earn more wages by doing overtime work."

The United States and Western Europe have accused Japan of attaining unfair economic competitiveness through longer working hours, and urged the nation to cut back.

Labor unions in seven key industries—steel, electric, shipbuilding, metal, automobile, private railway, and electric power—have called for around 8 percent wage hikes.

Unions in the seven industries demand that management offer wage hikes March 25 or 26, which will be the climax of the year's spring labor offensive.

The government of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has projected Japan's economic growth for fiscal 1992 beginning April 1 at 3.5 percent, down from 3.7 percent in fiscal 1991.

Kotaro Tsuru, a senior economic analyst at the Economic Planning Agency, said the Japanese economy is in an adjustment stage after a 57-month expansion, starting December 1986.

Tsuru indicated disfavor with both management and labor wage positions, hinting individual consumption could be crimped if management gets its way and inflation could be rekindled if labor's requests are met.

"I can personally say neither roughly 2.5 percent wage hikes nor 8 percent wage hikes are good for the recovery of economy," he said.

Yamahara of Nikkeiren said labor and management may play a tug- of-war and settle around 5 percent this year, a little below the 5.65 percent wage increases from last year's wage negotiations.

Resort Projects Manifesting 'Funding Problems'

OW2102122192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1116 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—Private projects to develop vacation resorts in Japan are running into trouble following the collapse of the "bubble economy," according to a survey published by KYODO NEWS SERVICE on Friday.

The survey showed 77 such projects have run into trouble in 31 prefectures, with 11 canceled, 10 scaled down, and 56 delayed.

Resort projects are going smoothly only in four prefectures, according to the survey.

The collapse of the bubble economy, which saw real estate and stock prices skyrocket in the late 1980s, has created serious funding problems for Japanese companies.

The survey, conducted this month, indicates trouble with resort developments has sharply increased in the past year. A government survey conducted in February and March 1991 showed most of the projects in 27 prefectures were going well.

Projects are being pursued in 35 prefectures under the 1987 resort development law, which is designed to help regional economic development.

Developers in designated areas are given tax breaks and are eligible for special low-interest loans from government-backed financial institutions.

The projects also face opposition from environmentalists.

In one case, a major construction company gave up its golf course development project in Mie prefecture, central Japan, last December because of a fund shortage, according to the survey.

In other prefectures, golf course and marina construction projects have been abandoned because of funding problems or in the face of environmental opposition.

Tokyo Urges Efforts To Stabilize CO_2 Emissions

OW2302140692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1311 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 23 KYODO—The United States has agreed in principle to stabilize carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions at their 1990 levels by 2000, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said Sunday.

The officials said they received the news in a telegram from Japanese delegates to the fifth round of negotiations aimed at concluding a convention on guidelines to prevent global warming caused by an increase in CO_2 emissions in the earth's atmosphere.

The conference opened last Tuesday in New York.

In a closed-door session, the U.S., the European Community (EC), Japan, and about 20 other countries are discussing ways to put teeth into the EC-proposed idea of stabilizing CO_2 emissions at the 1990 level by the century's end, the officials said.

They said the secretariat of the conference hopes conferees will put finishing touches on a draft treaty to fight global warming by the end of the conference Friday.

The EC urges compulsory actions by advanced and developing countries to stabilize CO_2 emissions, while Japan argues countries should make utmost efforts to stabilize the emissions, the officials said.

They said the New York conference is also discussing ways to control methane gas, another element suspected of warming the earth, and of dealing with newly industrializing countries such as South Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore.

North Korea

Solarz's Remarks on Nuclear Plans 'Absurd'

SK2402040492 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0027 GMT 24 Feb 92

[NODONG SINMUN 24 February commentary: "Shameless Act of Finding Fault With Someone Else"]

[Text] The U.S. reactionary forces are continuously making remarks slandering our sincere efforts toward the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Solarz, chairman of the Asian-Pacific Affairs Subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, recently made a provocative address at The Asia Society. He said that one should confirm whether North Korea is attempting to secretly push ahead with its nuclear plan behind the scenes after accepting an inspection in an attempt to avoid pressure from the world's public opinion and that appropriate steps should be taken. He also stated that in the event of North Korea not satisfactorily resolving the nuclear issue, the United States should apply the lesson of Iraq to North Korea.

His remarks deliberately distorted the truth and slandered, defamed, threatened, and intimidated other people. This is an arrogant challenge to our people and a shameless act to enforce one's intention onto others with strength.

Thanks to our sincere efforts, the nuclear issue is being resolved satisfactorily on the Korean peninsula. This notwithstanding, Solarz raved about our so-called secret nuclear plan and so forth, thus finding fault with us. This shows his antipeace nature and aroused the people's fierce indignation.

Solarz' gibberish shows his most conservative position and hinders the process of improvement in North-South relations, which is progressing on the Korean peninsula, by publicizing our country as a nuclear state at any cost. His position is to continuously aggravate tension and to crush our socialism.

This is indeed an insidious act of defiling the dignity and independence of our republic, which has always been faithful to international commitments and practices.

What is grave, furthermore, is that he raved about applying the Iraqi lesson and so forth. This fully reveals the ambition of U.S. ruling circles to achieve domination of the world with strength, thinking of their nation as the only superpower in the world.

The United States is scheming to bring anti-imperialist independent states under its control by force of arms by aggravating local disputes; to seize major areas with natural resources and strategic fortresses; and to establish a new world order dominated by itself. The United States has designated the Korean peninsula as one such important target area.

This was proven by the fact that the United States, in a U.S. Defense Department scenario on major local wars after the Cold War era, designated the Korean peninsula as an area of a large-scale war in which U.S. troops will interfere.

Solarz, an official figure in the U.S. Congress, is still talking about this and that concerning our nation's nuclear issue. This shows that he is not pleased [mot mattanghi yogida] with the result of the high-level talks that were satisfactorily held between the DPRK and the United States and that he has not discarded the anachronistic idea of continuously carrying out tyranny as a big nation. His insidious remarks are a premeditated, provocative act to suspend the denuclearization process, which is proceeding smoothly on the Korean peninsula, and to reverse the affirmative trend of the situation.

The absurd remarks of Solarz, who is attempting to spoil the bright prospect for the resolution of the nuclear issue created on the Korean peninsula after a long time and to aggravate tension, deserve denunciation and criticism of the world's people.

It is inconceivable that we will not do what we should and we will do what we should not do because of such nonsensical gibberish from Solarz and the like.

It is our consistent position to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone. We have neither the ability nor the intention to develop nuclear weapons. Furthermore, developing nuclear weapons, which can destroy fellow countrymen, can never be imagined.

Our republic, which has already signed the nuclear safeguards accord, will ratify and effectuate the accord at the earliest possible date and will accept fairly the inspection at a time agreed on with the International Atomic Energy Agency. No one should doubt such a position by us.

'False Report' on Missiles to Syria Denounced

SK2402105492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 24 Feb 92

["False Propaganda for Sinister Purpose"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 24 (KCNA)—The NEW YORK TIMES recently carried a false report that a DPRK ship with Scud missiles left for Syria.

This is a crafty ruse to deliberately fake up fact, impair the prestige of the DPRK, put pressure on it and drive a wedge between the DPRK and Mideast countries.

As the world recognises, the DPRK has consistently worked to preserve peace and security in Asia and the world.

We have more than once declared that we do not produce nor have we any need to produce mass destruction weapons threatening the existence of mankind.

The United States, paying no heed to this fact, is raising a hue and cry over the fiction of the production of missiles by the DPRK and their export. This is a propaganda offensive for a sinister political purpose.

The United States' false propaganda against the DPRK reminds us of a thief crying "Stop Thief".

As far as the export of weapons is concerned, the United States tops the list. It is the biggest trader in mass destruction weapons.

According to a report of the Washington Arms Control Association, the United States sold weapons worth about six billion dollars to the Middle East last year. It supplied 64 Patriot missiles with two launching pads to Israel, creating an extremely dangerous situation in this region.

With arms sales too much rife, the chairman of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee and the chairman of its Mideast small committee and some other congressmen sent a letter of protest to Bush in November last year against the U.S. Administration's decision to sell three billion dollars worth of Patriot missiles and four billion dollars worth of 75 F-15 fighter-bombers to the Middle East during the recess of Congress.

It is foolish of some U.S. subsidized press to sling mud at the DPRK while keeping mum about this fact.

The United States had better clearly see the positive developments on the Korean peninsula and stop the false propaganda against the DPRK.

U.S. War Scenario on Korean Peninsula Decried

SK2402101192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0027 GMT 22 Feb 92

[NODONG SINMUN 22 February commentary: "New Korean War Scenario"]

[Text] The United States gives lip service to its pursuit of peace and detente, but in reality, it does not want peace and is advancing along a road of aggression and war. This is shown by new war scenarios recently drafted by the U.S. imperialists.

According to the THE NEW YORK TIMES, the U.S. Defense Department worked out seven so-called post-cold war scenarios and is pushing ahead with them.

These war scenarios clearly show the U.S. imperialists' unchanged aggressive nature and strategy of strength, which is growing more atrocious with each passing day.

What attracts our particular attention is that two of the seven war scenarios are designed to cope with an emergency on the Korean peninsula. This shows that the U.S. imperialists acutely directed their spearhead of new war scenarios at us and that they have not discarded their ambition for northward invasion.

The U.S. imperialists have worked out Korean war scenarios on many occasions; however, the scenario worked out this time contains even greater danger.

Taking advantage of international relations developments in which the balance of power was destroyed, the U.S. imperialists are now arrogantly and rudely running wild. They think they can do anything they want to and recklessly act while engrossed with their expansive delusions of strength.

It is well known that the U.S. warmongers, who regard the Korean peninsula as the place of the next war after the Persian Gulf war, have worked out a 120-day war scenario that regards nuclear war in Korea as an established fact. Not satisfied with this, they worked out two more war scenarios. This revealed the vicious attempt of the U.S. imperialists to perfect the new war provocation plan on the Korean peninsula more completely and concretely and to perpetrate a military encounter against us at any moment.

Thanks to the peaceloving policy and constant efforts of our republic's government, an atmosphere favorable to peace and detente is being realized on the Korean peninsula. At this very time, the United States worked out new Korean war scenarios. This cannot but be a criminal act of pouring cold water over the atmosphere, which is favorable to peace on the Korean peninsula, that is now being created.

The United States is not interested in peace on the Korean peninsula. It is advancing toward strengthening a cold war policy on the Korean peninsula. It is also advancing toward the aggravation, not relaxation, of tension.

The United States is attempting to ignite a new fireball and expand it to other areas, thus scheming to realize the ambition for world domination with its strength. The U.S. imperialists frantically staged provocative air war exercises each day in the skies above South Korea by mobilizing enormous air forces and even refueled their planes in the air.

All facts show that the U.S. imperialists are the destroyers of peace and detente on the Korean peninsula and are warmongers. Peace on the Korean peninsula is directly linked to peace in Asia and the world. The progressive people of the world unanimously denounce and reject the U.S. imperialists' Korean war provocation maneuvers.

The U.S. imperialists should look straight at the trends of the times and act with discretion. The U.S. imperialists' Korean war scenario is the scenario of death. If they continue war maneuvers on the Korean peninsula, they cannot avoid greater denunciation and rejection.

Foreign Firms Allowed in Planned Economic Zones

OW2402042592 Tokyo KYODO in English
0130 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang, Feb. 24 KYODO—North Korea will permit the establishment of 100 percent foreign-owned companies in planned free economic and trade zones, a senior North Korean official said Sunday [23 February].

Kim Chong-u, vice minister of external economic affairs, told visiting Japanese reporters that the special economic zones will be set up in Rajin and Sonbong in North Hamgyong Province along the country's northeastern coast.

Construction of infrastructures there will begin in the latter part of next year and the government has already compiled drafts of a foreign enterprise law and a corporate income tax law in connection with the projects, Kim said.

The authorities are also considering drawing up a foreign immigration law, he added.

Kim called for Japan's cooperation in building the free economic and trade zones. He cited the electronics industry and light industry as possible targets for investments from Japan.

Another incentive for foreign investments in the special economic zones is that corporate tax will be reduced by 10 to 15 percent, he said. Currently foreign enterprises are obliged to pay tax of 25 percent after they have been established for three years.

Kim also said the North Korean authorities will arrange visas for foreign workers in the zones.

The free economic zone projects are North Korea's first of the kind and form part of a United Nations development program project to develop the Tumen River basin running along the borders of North Korea, China, and the Russian Far East into a major industrial and trade complex.

Kim told the Japanese reporters that Pyongyang won't block any nation's investment in the zones, including South Korea.

Regarding infrastructure, Kim said the North Korean Government is planning to build a 300-kilometer-long highway, to expand an existing railway by 165 kilometers, and to construct a port at Sonbong with an annual handling capacity of up to 50 million tons.

Cuban Military Delegation Visits, Voices Support

SK2102052192 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0441 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 21 (KCNA)—A mass meeting of working people and armymen of units in

Pyongyang was held here on Feb. 20 to welcome the visiting delegation of the party, state and Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba.

Invited to the meeting were the members of the delegation headed by Rear Admiral Pedro M. Perez Betancourt, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, vice-minister of Revolutionary Armed Forces and commander of the Navy, and Cuban Ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega and embassy officials.

Kim Hyong-u, vice-director of a department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, General Kim Pong-yul of the Korean People's Army, officials concerned, working people in the city and People's Army soldiers were present there.

Kim Il-chol, senior vice admiral of the Korean People's Army, addressing the meeting, pointed out:

Today the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries are favorably developing with each passing day. Korea-Cuba friendship is efflorescing and developing at such a high stage as today because it is based on the deep intimacy between the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and respected Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz.

The Korean people and the officers and men of the People's Army sincerely wish the fraternal Cuban people and the officers and men of the Revolutionary Armed Forces fresher success in socialist construction and in the work for increasing the defence capabilities of the country, upholding the decisions of the 4th Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba.

The fraternal friendly relations between Korea and Cuba will be everlasting and immortal in any storm.

Head of the delegation Pedro M. Perez Betancourt said in his speech that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries have firmly been cemented with the close intimacy between Supreme Commander Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz and Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people, and through the common struggle against the U.S. imperialists' aggression and in the course of invariably maintaining the principle of socialism.

The party, government and people of the republic of Cuba have all along supported the just cause of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to achieve the independent, peaceful reunification of the country and will continue to do so in the future, too.

And he reassured the DPRK of Cuba's support to its just struggle to build socialism and achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country against imperialism.

Silk banners and souvenirs were exchanged at the meeting.

The delegation saw a circus show of the Korean People's Army in the evening.

Daily Pyongyang Press Reviewed

20 Feb

SK2002153692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1500 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Press Review]

[Text] Pyongyang February 20 (KCNA)—Papers here today frontpage a photo-accompanied report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received Abul Bashar, chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Bangladesh.

NODONG SINMUN introduces the world public supporting President Kim Il-song's proposal for reunification through confederacy.

Given in the press are messages of greetings the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received from foreign party and state leaders on his 50th birthday and news that he received a gift from the youth organisation of the United Malay's National Organisation of Malaysia, Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and chairman of the Supreme National Council, hosted a party at Kemarin Palace and foreign news media issued articles on his 50th birthday.

It is reported that Comrade Kim Chong-il's work "Young Men and Women, be the Young Vanguard Unfailingly Loyal to the Party and the Leader" was brought out in Denmark.

Papers carry an account of the first-day session of the 6th inter-Korean high-level talks at which the effectuation of the documents agreed upon between the North and the South was announced, the texts of the effectuation of the "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South," "The Joint Declaration on the Denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula" and the "The Agreement on the Formation and Operation of Subcommittees of the North-South High-Level Talks" which were signed and exchanged, and Premier Yon Hyong-muk's remarks of greetings. Members of the South side's delegtion visited the Grand People's Study House, says the press.

In connection with the declaration of the effectuation of the agreed documents at the first-day session of the 6th inter-Korean high-level talks NODONG SINMUN editorially calls for honestly implementing the North-South agreement and the joint declaration and opening a decisive phase of the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The press carries a message of greetings sent by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to Alan Garcia Perez on his election as General Secretary of the National Executive Committee of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance of Peru.

Leaders of the Nepali Congress Party and the prime minister met a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea, according to the press.

Edited in papers are reactions of people of all strata to the decree of the Central People's Committee of the DPRK on enforcing a measure to increase the wages of the entire workers, technicians and office employees and raise the income of the co-op farmers.

The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea sent thanks to the builders who have completed the project of modernizing the Hwangju textile mill, says the press. Introduced in the press are achievements in various fields of the national economy.

Papers observe day of machine builders.

South Korean people raised cheers over the effectuation of the agreed documents at the 6th inter-Korean high-level talks and demanded the abrogation of the "National Security Law" and the South Korean Council of Christian Churches vowed to fight in connection with the abortion of a visit to Seoul by the Christian delegation of the northern half of Korea.

Appearing in the press is news that the U.S. imperialist aggressors committed joint aerial war exercises against the North.

MINJU CHOSON runs an article entitled "National Reunification Must Be Realised by Means of Confederacy".

Foreign news columns of the press include reports that Norodom Sihanouk elaborated on the success in the work of the four groups in Cambodia, the Indonesian president called for a successful guarantee for the general election, the summit meeting of the economic cooperation organisation was held in Iran, the Sri Lankan president called for independent economic development, the Tajik president referred to the external policy of the country and a spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry rejected the groundless slander of the United States that China was intended to sell the technology of medium-range ballistic missiles to Iran. NODONG SINMUN carries an article exposing the U.S. imperialists' attempt to commit a new military adventure on the Korean peninsula. A commentary of MINJU CHOSON condemns the U.S. Defense Department for having drafted "seven war scenarios" against the DPRK and other countries.

21 Feb

SK2102053592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0452 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang February 21 (KCNA)—Papers here today frontpage a photo-accompanied report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received the South side's delegation to the sixth inter-Korean high-level talks and the full text of his talk to the members of the delegations of the North and the South to the inter-Korean high-level talks "Let the North and the South Open the Way for the Peace and Reunification of the Country in a United Effort."

Seen in the press are messages of thanks to Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, from Edward Mohamed Turay, secretary general of the All People's Congress of Sierra Leone.

Papers carry letters to President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il from the participants in the Asian Regional Solidarity Meeting for Peace and Reunification of Korea, an account of the meeting, the report made at the meeting, an appeal to the political parties, organisations and personages of all countries and letters to the U.S. President and the chief executive of South Korea adopted at the meeting.

Appearing in papers are congratulatory messages to Comrade Kim Chong-il from foreign parties and party leaders on his 50th birthday and reports that he received gifts from the Imt Tractor Plant in Belgrade and Edmond Jouve, deputy director general of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea and president of the Council of the European Society for the Study of the Chuche Idea, and congratulatory messages from Koreans in Japan and colorful functions were held in different countries on this occasion.

Papers report that the State Publishing House of Laos brought out in booklet Comrade Kim Chong-il's classical work "Our Socialism Centred on the Masses Shall Not Perish."

It is reported in papers that thanks of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea were conveyed to the employees of the Kim Man-yu Hospital and to the officials and employees of the Central Zoo, and the Zairean Youth Chuche Idea Study Group was formed.

Carried in papers are an account of the closing of the sixth inter-Korean high-level talks, the keynote speech of the head of the North side's delegation, the joint communique on the talks, an account of a banquet arranged by Chairman Yang Hyong-sop of the Supreme People's Assembly for the South side's delegation and a report that the members of the South side's delegation visited various places of Pyongyang.

NODONG SINMUN runs a commentary on the scheme of the United States to hasten the "star wars" program by hiring nuclear experts of the defunct Soviet Union.

It is reported in papers that a mass meeting was held in Pyongyang to welcome the visiting delegation of the party, the state and the armed forces of Cuba, President Yang Shangkun called for promoting socialist economic construction, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk called for national unity and PRENSA LATINA condemned the anti-Cuba campaign of the United States.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article on the contradiction and friction between the United States and Japan daily growing acute.

MINJU CHOSON runs an article on the "trade war" worsening among the United States, Japan and the European Community.

22 Feb

SK2302042392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Press Review]

[Text] Pyongyang February 22 (KCNA)—Papers here today frontpage a message of greetings to Prime Minister of Saint Lucia John George Melvin Compton from President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the 13th anniversary of the independence of the former's country.

Given in the papers are letters to the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il from the participants in the Ugandan national seminar on the chuche idea and the role of the popular masses, an account of the seminar and the report made there.

In connection with the talk of President Kim Il-song to the delegates of both sides to the sixth inter-Korean high-level talks, NODONG SINMUN carries an editorial headlined "Highly Important Guideline for the Solution of the Question of Peace and Reunification of the Country" and MINJU CHOSON an editorial headlined "Let the Whole Nation Closely Unite and Accomplish the Cause of the Country's Independent and Peaceful Reunification at an Early Date." Papers also carry the gist of a statement of Yi Chin-kyu, first vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) hailing the talk.

Appearing in the press are a report that Guyanese Prime Minister Hamilton Green presented Comrade Kim Chong-il with a gift on his 50th birthday and messages of greetings to him from foreign party and party leaders and news that Mindan-lining compatriots and South Koreans in Japan sent messages to him and celebration functions were held with large attendance on this occasion.

Brief history of Comrade Kim Chong-il's revolutionary activities was widely reported abroad, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article headlined "Indispensable Requisite to Victory of Cause of Socialism" on Comrade Kim Chong-il's historical work "Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party".

Dailies report that chuche idea study groups were formed in various countries and orders of the DPRK were awarded to the members of the delegation of the party, the state and armed forces of Cuba.

Papers report that the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea hosted a party for the president of the National Executive Committee of the Left Revolutionary Union of Peru, the DPRK ambassador to Bahamas presented his credentials to the governor- general of this country and the general secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Sri Lanka Communist Party met the DPRK ambassador to his country.

Papers allot nearly one whole page to the full text of a KCNA report "On Brilliant Victory in the Struggle for the Withdrawal of U.S. Nuclear Weapons and Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula".

South Korean news of the press includes reports that protests were staged throughout South Korea against the building of nuclear waste dumps and youths waged strong protests against No Tae-u's trip to Kwangju.

Raul Castro stated that the United States should not occupy even one inch of the Cuban soil, the Filipino president rejected U.S. armed intervention scheme, Israeli troops invaded southern Lebanon and joint maneuvers of the ground "Self-Defence Force" of Japan and the U.S. Marines have begun.

The press observes the 13th anniversary of the independence of Saint Lucia and the national day of Qatar.

NODONG SINMUN carries a commentary denouncing the U.S. Defence Department which has worked out two "war scenarios" for a war in Korea.

MINJU CHOSON carries an article on the defection of many members from the ruling "Democratic Liberal Party" on the threshold of the 14th "National Assembly election" (general elections) in South Korea.

KCNA Reviews 24 Feb NODONG SINMUN

SK2402055992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0513 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 24 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries letters to the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il from the participants in the 12th Portuguese national seminar on the chuche idea, an account of the seminar held in Lisbon and a report at the seminar.

The talk of President Kim Il-song to the members of the delegations of both sides to the inter-Korean high-level talks was reported by Chinese news media, according to the daily.

Given in the daily is an account of a national symposium of students held to mark the 30th anniversary of the publication of "On Firmly Establishing Revolutionary World Outlook Among Students", a work of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Appearing in the daily is a message of greetings to Comrade Kim Chong-il sent by Ali Saibou, president of the republic of Niger, on his 50th birthday. Also seen there is news that the February holiday was celebrated in different countries.

The daily reports that Comrade Kim Chong-il's work "Our Socialism Centered on the Masses Shall Not Perish" was published in booklet in Hungary and Bulgaria and a collection of poems "Kim Chong-il, Gifted Great Man" was off the press in Mali.

The Lebanese group for the study of the ideas and theories of Comrade Kim Chong-il and the Oyo state group for the study of the chuche idea of the Nigerian teachers' union were formed and a collection of papers of the international institute of the chuche idea was published, says the daily.

The daily runs a political essay carrying the determination of the Korean people to make revolution to the end, singleheartedly united behind President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The daily says that the anti-Japanese guerrillas and the entire people praised the birth of Comrade Kim Chong-il as the birth of a "lodestar in Mt. Paekdu" during the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

The head of state of Mali met a DPRK Government delegation, the general secretary of the Jamaican Labour Party the DPRK ambassador and the general secretary of the Communist Party of Venezuela the DPRK trade representative, says the daily.

Econews of the daily includes a report that the slope pit No. 12 of the Komdok mining complex was completed.

The daily carries an article stressing that independent stand is a fundamental stand to be maintained in solving the reunification question and a commentary hitting out at the South Korean authorities for keeping the "National Security Law" as it is.

Printed in the daily are a statement adopted at the executive committee meeting of the world peace council and a report that the reporters of the meeting voiced support to the cause of Korea's reunification.

South Korean news columns of the daily include a report that a collection of letters written by Rev. Mun Ik-hwan in prison was off the press.

In a commentary, the daily accuses Solarz, chairman of the Sub-committee on Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress, of babbling that if North Korea fails to solve the nuclear problem "satisfactorily" the United States should "apply to North Korea the lesson learned in Iraq".

The daily reports that the president of the State of Palestine denounced Israel for delaying peace process in the Middle East and the Indonesian president called for cooperation among developing countries.

Edited in the international news columns of the paper are reports that the former U.S. procurator general [title as received] condemned the U.S. invasion of Panama, the U.S. imperialists decided to set up another anti-Cuba radio and apprehensions over the economic reform are growing in Russia.

The daily exposes a fierce scramble for the presidential seat in the United States.

South Korea

Official Views Economic Consultations With U.S.

SK2202023092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0114 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 22 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea will consult closely with the United States and other friendly countries on inter-Korean economic exchange so that expansion of its deals with North Korea do not hinder its international economic relations.

A government official said Saturday that inter-Korean economic exchange would be on the table at the 10th South Korean-U.S. economic cooperation consultation in Washington Monday.

"With the agreements between South and North Korea in effect, an inter-Korean economic exchange and cooperation committee will be established. Direct inter-Korean dealing is likely to expand accordingly, and in this case, international understanding is needed for the no-tariff transactions between the two sides," the official said.

"The government will seek to have the United States and other countries regard inter-Korean transactions as internal trade and let the two Koreas engage in no-tariff deals," he said.

Korea will explain the latest developments on and around the Korean peninsula and the progress in inter-Korean dialogue at the bilateral consultation next week.

Officials of the two countries will discuss matters concerning the expansion of inter-Korean exchanges in the future.

"At present, the United States has a positive view about economic exchanges between the two Koreas," the official said.

He said the government would also discuss with Washington and other governments issues related to South Korean investment in North Korea such as certificates of origin.

As the United States bans its firms from trading with North Korea, the official said, improvement of Washington-Pyongyang relations would be fully considered in the course of Seoul-Washington consultations.

As no-tariff deals are subject basically to the waiver clause of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the government will ask the GATT to recognize inter-Korean deals as internal trade as it did for East-West German deals before unification of Germany.

U.S. Urges S-N Nuclear Inspection Before Jun

SK2402083192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0749 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 24 (OANA-YONHAP)—The United States made clear to South Korea on Monday that it wants a mutual inter-Korean nuclear inspection to take place before June, and that it opposes concrete action on Seoul-Pyongyang economic cooperation before the nuclear problem is completely cleared away.

Douglas Paal, senior assistant to the U.S. President on Asian Affairs, delivered the messages in a meeting with Kim Chong-hwi, chief presidential secretary for diplomacy and national security, and Chong Tae-ik, director-general of American affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

Solving the nuclear problem was the chief task, Paal told Kim and Chong, and holding pilot inspections in South and North Korea was critical.

North Korea might be trying to earn time to develop nuclear weapons by delaying inter-Korean and outside inspections, Paal said in stressing the necessity of pilot inspection.

Unless the inter-Korean nuclear issue were settled before the next meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in June, South Korea and the United States should "consult closely" on sanctions against North Korea, Paal said.

Sanctions might include economic bans on North Korea through U.N. resolutions, Korean officials said.

Paal made the point that it would be better to delay concrete action on inter-Korean economic cooperation until the nuclear problem was solved.

Paal arrived Sunday on an Asian tour of countries U.S. President George Bush visited in January. He leaves Tuesday evening.

The U.S. official, stressing that Japan must take a firm stance on North Korea's nuclear program, said Washington-Tokyo efforts were necessary to deter Pyongyang's development of nuclear arms.

Paal's next destination is Tokyo, where he is likely to make this point clear Japanese officials.

The South Korean and U.S. officials agreed that their nations would closely watch the results of the IAEA meeting that opened Monday in Vienna and the inter-Korean nuclear negotiations set for this Thursday.

The two countries will consult again on joint measures after the meetings.

No Tae-u Interviewed on DPRK Nuclear Issue

SK2202144792 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Report on interview with ROK President No Tae-u by reporters at Chongwadae on 22 February]

[Text] On the occasion of the fourth anniversary of No Tae-u's 25 February inauguration as president, he met with reporters today. He stressed that because North Korea's nuclear issue is an important one that cannot go up in smoke, he will realize North Korea's denuclearization by any means through the international organs with binding force, including the UN Security Council. Saying that North Korea should fulfill the joint declaration of denuclearization on the Korean peninsula and the agreement concluded with the International Atomic Energy Agency, President No repeatedly urged North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapon development.

In connection with foreign media reports that North Korea is digging underground tunnels around Yongbyon area to conceal its nuclear development, President No added that he had already received a report on that possibility.

In answer to a reporter's question on how he feels about business group owners participating in the election campaign by organizing political parties, President No Tae-u said that in a democratic country, there is no limitation imposed on anyone who participates in politics. People of advanced intellect will make judgements on this. He further explained that candidates or political parties that launch elections with money will be judged wisely according to the will of the people who witness such a practice.

Noting that it is not desirable for some politicians to say that the ROK's foreign debt exceeds $50 billion, thus creating distrust among people, the president explained that the ROK's foreign debt shrank from $22.4 billion in 1988 to $12.4 billion as of the end of 1991. A substantial portion of the trade deficit in 1991 was attributable to investment in facilities, including the import of production facilities. Now it is the time for confidence and courage rather than pessimism in the economic subjects.

Despite the fact that he has never sent even a single letter to President Kim Il-song or Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese leader, President No said that it is not in the state's or people's interest for the media to make speculative reports on many different occasions as if he had sent personal letters to them. He asked the reporters to be more prudent.

No Tae-u Seeks To Involve UN in Nuclear Issue

SK2202081792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0801 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 22 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u on Saturday indicated that his government was determined to bring the issue of North Korean nuclear development program to the U.N. Security Council if it was not settled through inter-Korean efforts.

Calling the nuclear issue involving North Korea as "a matter of such magnitude that draws attention from the international community as well," No said, "it is a problem that should be solved without fail even through the good offices of the U.N. Security Council or other organizations with international binding force in case it is not solved through inter-Korean dialogue."

He made the remarks when he met over luncheon with journalists covering Chongwadae, presidential residence, in commemoration of the fourth anniversary of his assumption of office.

No reiterated his earlier call for North Korea's renunciation of its nuclear weapons development program, saying that the terms of the joint declaration on a non-nuclear Korean peninsula and the nuclear safeguards agreement signed between North Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) should be abided by for the denuclearization of the peninsula.

"Even though we failed to obtain a firm North Korean reply on the nuclear issue in the sixth round of the high-level talks, we have made clear our position that the issue should be solved at any cost," No said.

But No said he could sense in North Korea's recent decision to ratify the safeguards accord by the end of March or the beginning of April Pyongyang's acknowledgement of the fact that it cannot dodge ratification any longer.

Asked on wire reports that North Koreans are digging underground passageways in Yongbyon for securing an underground base for nuclear development, No said, "even though it lacks solid evidence, I have received information warning of such a possibility or threat on and off."

Chong Won-sik Sums Up Results of Premier Talks

SK2102145792 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Interview with Prime Minister Chong Won-sik, head of the South side's delegation to the South-North high-level talks, by KBS anchorman Pak Tae-sok, on 21 February, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Pak Tae-sok] It must have been an effort for you to make such a long journey.

The historic basic agreement has been adopted at the fifth round of talks in Seoul and they have been put into effect in the just-concluded sixth round of talks in Pyongyang.

What did you feel the moment you exchanged the agreements?

[Chong Won-sik] Simply put, I thought it was encouraging that finally an age of reconciliation and cooperation has been opened between the South and North at the end of a long journey.

Nevertheless, I sensed a little more heavy sense of responsibility because putting the agreement into practice is more important than anything else. Let me call it an oppressive feeling.

Thinking that we need to make a greater effort to put the agreements into practice one after another, I felt a heavy sense of responsibility.

[Pak] How did the North Korean leadership react to the effectuation of the South-North agreement?

[Chong] Generally speaking, it was obvious that the North Korean leadership welcomed it, too. In view of the North Korean leaders' repeated saying that they will guarantee the effectuation of the agreement, I think that to a degree the effecting of the agreement will be possible. Of course, it will need much discussion over a long period of time. Also, I hope for that.

[Pak] About the South-North summit meeting which has long drawn attention at home and abroad, there were speculative reports that secret talks might have been held in a separate place.

What issues did you discuss with President Kim Il-song in a separate interview held prior to a luncheon?

[Chong] We had two rounds of interviews before having the luncheon. The first 20 minutes were the so-called tete-a-tete and the rest of the 20 minutes comprised an interview in which all the members of our delegation attended.

In the interview in which all the members of the delegation attended, a statement prepared in advance was read. President No Tae-u's talk was made public on the morning when the agreement was put into effect and was cited as the reason for reading a statement by the North Korean side as a courtesy.

The statement was nothing but a virtual reiteration of what has been said in the past. Simply put, my strong impression of that statement was that no change at all has occurred.

Of course, our government already knew that North Korea had not changed much. Also, we did not expect any great changes during our stay in North Korea. So, from the beginning, we guessed that North Korea would come up with such assertions. It was, however, out of consideration that we should be patient in approaching, step by step, without hurrying, that we did our best during the talks.

[Pak] President Kim is reported to have said that there is no pro-U.S., pro-Soviet [as heard], or pro-China attitude, in a separate interview or something like that.

[Chong] In addition, he talked about religious matters first. He talked about religious matters, in order to emphasize the need for all of our nation to achieve great unity after consigning all such things as Christianity, Confucianism, and other types of religions, even Marxism to the past. Afterward, he stressed that there is no longer such things as pro-United States, pro-Soviet, or pro-China attitude and that our people should unite with each other independently.

[Pak] What did you think about it?

[Chong] I understood that he used that expression in a bid to emphasize the need for the people to unite with each other independently, one of the basic principles of reunification, that the nation needs an independent unity, which has been repeated time after time in the past.

[Pak] You talked a lot with President Kim Il-song even in the interview in which all the members of the delegation attended. What impression did you have about a summit meeting during this interview?

[Chong] In the interview in which all the members of the delegation attended, he repeatedly stressed in the statement that there are no nuclear weapons in North Korea, and that it has no intention or capability to produce nuclear weapons.

Thinking that I had better raise an objection to his words, I stressed that if North Korea has no nuclear weapons as stated, North Korea should either accept pilot inspections at an early date or see to it that the nuclear control committee is formed, endowing it with the function of conducting simultaneous nuclear inspection and this is the only way of dissolving global misgivings.

[Pak] We are greatly disappointed in that no progress at all seems to have been made in the question of the separated families during the just-concluded talks. How long do you think the separated families should wait for the settlement of their problem?

[Chong] It is the one question that pains our hearts most. Personally, I am one of those with separated families. For visiting home or a family reunion that many separated families are thirsting for, when I set out on our way to the North for the sixth round of talks, I went there determined that I would settle this question at any cost, even if I did not end up solving anything else.

So, whenever I saw opportunities I raised the question of the separated families. In particular, in my keynote speech I formally proposed that opportunities should be given to the elderly who are separated to visit their homeland, repeating it time after time. Nevertheless, the North side came up with a host of conditions. Some of the conditions were hard for us to accept. As a result, we have come back without settling the question of separated families.

I find it very regrettable. To a certain extent, I feel guilty because we have failed in solving this question.

I would like to say that I am sorry for many of the separated families.

In the future, too, I will repeatedly raise the question of the separated families at every high-level talks that will be held in the future. I promise that I will do my best for solving the problem one after another.

[Pak] Thank you for joining us. Thank you very much.

Reports Continue on Nuclear Inspection Issue

Seoul Seeks Mid-Apr Inspections

SK2102143992 Seoul YONHAP in English 1333 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 21 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government wants to see mutual inspection of suspected nuclear facilities in the two Koreas conducted by mid-April and has therefore decided to push for an early inauguration of joint Nuclear Control Committee, a government official said Friday.

"It is so urgent," said the official, who declined to be named.

"In a working-level contact on Feb. 27, we will propose an immediate agreement on the formation of the nuclear control committee and suggest that the agreement be effectuated only with the working-level delegates' signatures instead of prime ministers'," he said.

He said the Southern side would propose to hold a first meeting to discuss problems concerning operation of the committee along with the formation of the committee with a view to advancing the mutual nuclear inspection as much as possible.

The decision to hasten the formation and activation of the nuclear committee was reportedly based on the judgement that the nuclear reprocessing facilities now under construction in Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang, could be dedicated by the end of May.

The official said, "the government is determined to press North Korea in the working-level contact for an agreement on a proposal to settle concrete procedures and methods of nuclear inspection within one month of the formation of the nuclear committee."

He said, "it is our firm position that the nuclear-related agreement should be put into effect immediately with an agreement in the working-level contact, without having it reviewed by the prime ministers, in view of its urgency."

Seoul May Urge UN Sanctions

SK2202012192 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 22 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] The government is preparing to seek economic sanctions by the U.N. Security Council against North Korea if the North continues to delay ratifying the nuclear safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and remains negative to South Korean-proposed "pilot inspection" of nuclear facilities.

The government is studying the move as North Korea failed to give a commitment to ratifying the nuclear safeguards agreement with the IAEA at an early date and to the South's proposal for pilot inspections, during the just-ended sixth premiers' talks in Pyongyang.

"If North Korea delays ratifying the nuclear safeguards accord, our government will consider initiating the adoption by the U.N. Security Council of a resolution calling for economic sanctions against North Korea," said a ranking Foreign Ministry official yesterday.

Pyongyang signed the nuclear safeguards accord with the IAEA on Jan. 30 after six years of delaying it, but has yet to present a timetable for procedures for mandatory nuclear inspections by the Agency.

The ministry official, who asked not to be identified, repudiated arguments that economic sanctions against North Korea would not be effective because of its "chuche," or self-reliant economy.

"The projected economic sanctions would deal serious damage to the North Korean economy which is on the verge of collapsing, taking into account the North's current economic situation," said the ministry official.

North Korea's total trade volume which amounted to $4.6 billion in 1990, fell to $2 billion last year, according to the ministry official.

"Therefore, North Korea would not be able to sustain its economy any longer if economic sanctions are taken against it," said the official.

The ministry official's remarks came days before the arrival of Douglas Paal, special assistant to U.S. President George Bush, in Seoul tomorrow for consultations with senior aides to President No Tae-u and ranking government officials on North Korea's nuclear development program and on the outcome of the just-ended sixth premiers' talks between the South and North.

Paal, concurrent senior director for Asian affairs at the National Security Council, will meet Kim Chong-whi, senior presidential secretary for diplomacy and national security and No's senior secretary for economic affairs Kim Chong-in, according to Foreign Ministry officials.

The aide to Bush will discuss with South Korean Government officials joint efforts to force the North to open up its nuclear facilities to IAEA inspection and "pilot inspections" of nuclear facilities in both sides as soon as possible, according to the Foreign Ministry.

The U.S. Administration has expressed hope that "pilot inspection" of nuclear facilities in the South and North be conducted prior to full-scale nuclear inspections by the IAEA.

Ministry officials said that Paal will also discuss follow-up measures to the summit talks between Presidents No and Bush last month.

In a related development, the Foreign Ministry briefed the chiefs of foreign diplomatic missions in Seoul on the outcome of the premiers' talks in Pyongyang with major emphasis on the nuclear issue.

Yi Sung-kon, assistant foreign minister for policy planning, reported that, if North Korea is left to go on without outside pressure, it would take from three to four months to several years for the North to ratify and implement the nuclear safeguards accord.

Saying that North Korea has not yet responded positively to the South's proposal for trial inspections during the Pyongyang talks, Yi said, "when our delegation comes back, we will carefully assess where we stand and will decide where to move from there."

"We think it is very important to maintain a certain level of pressure on North Korea to accept an early inspection of nuclear facilities," he added.

North Delegate's Remarks Viewed

SK2202040392 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 22 Feb 92 p 2

["News Analysis" column by staff reporter Kim Hyeh-won]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A Seoul official said the South's proposal for trial nuclear inspection of the two Koreas has virtually expired. South Korea earlier suggested that the pilot inspection be made on Yongbyon nuclear facilities and Sunchon airfield in the North and Kunsan airbase and another civilian facility in the South by the end of this month.

This issue of mutual nuclear inspection between the two Koreas, therefore, has been transferred to the South-North nuclear control commission, which is to be formed before March 19.

The commission, envisioned by the South-North declaration of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, is to ensure the implementation of mutual nuclear inspections for a nuclear weapons-free South and North Korea.

South Korea wants the commission to work toward realizing mutual inspections within one month after its formation. North Korea, however, did not accept the offer during working-level contacts on nuclear issues in Pyongyang, Wednesday.

Concerning the international inspection of the North Korean facilities, Choe U-chin, a North Korean delegate, informally told a South Korean official that Pyongyang will ratify the nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) sometime in late March or early April.

Choe's remarks indicate that North Korea even went a step backwards over the issue. North Korean delegates, during the fifth round of inter-Korean prime ministers' talks in Seoul last December, indicated that the North would finish measures to effectuate the IAEA accord before an IAEA board of governors meeting Feb. 25-27.

If North Korea delays the ratification, actual IAEA inspection cannot occur within a few months.

This hard stance of North Korea on the nuclear issues has apparently upset not only the South Koreans but also the Americans and other allies.

Seoul officials believe the United States may air grievances through Douglas Paal, senior assistant to U.S. President George Bush. Paal is to arrive in Seoul tomorrow for talks with Kim Chong-whi, chief assistant to President No Tae-u for national security and foreign affairs, and other officials over the North Korean nuclear issue. Kim attended the just concluded Pyongyang talks as a Southern delegate.

As long as the settlement of North Korea's nuclear issue is delayed, it is also hard to expect any early progress in inter-Korean relations in practical terms. [passage omitted]

Newspaper Reports North's Scud Missile Deployment

SK2402013592

[Editorial Report] SEOUL SINMUN in its 24 February edition on page 8 carries a 1,000-word article entitled "Geography of North Korea—the First Installment." The article introduces the history of the DPRK's North Hwanghae Province, including population, administrative districts, education facilities, and industries.

In introducing the city of Sariwon, the article reports the deployment of Scud missiles in the province, saying: "According to recent intelligence, a Scud missile base is located near the city [Sariwon city] and 36 Scud missiles have already been deployed there."

Exiles Said To Form Anti-Kim Il-song Alliance

SK2402012592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0050 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 (YONHAP)—Former North Korean generals and high-powered officials living in exile abroad recently formed an alliance to topple North Korean President Kim Il-song and turn his hard-line Stalinist regime into a democracy.

It is the first time North Koreans who fled their country or were deported for political reasons have openly set up a group to overthrow the aging dictator, whom they accuse of using genocide, torture and murder to conceal his wrongdoings, according to a founding member who lives in Tokyo.

A group of North Korean expatriates created the "Salvation Front for the Democratic Unification of Choson" in Moscow late January, Pak Kap-tong, who was elected standing chairman of the Front, said in an exclusive interview with YONHAP News Agency here.

Pak, 73, recently returned from Moscow, where he met secretly with other former North Korean military and civilian leaders to establish the anti-Kim organization. They had planned to form a North Korean Government in exile, but shied away from taking such a step, he said.

Pak headed the underground activities of the outlawed Namro Party (South Korean Workers Party) for around two years before the Korean war broke out in 1950 and in late 1953 he was kicked out of the North Korean Workers Party after being purged by Kim Il-song.

Pak was cleared of suspicion three years later and made the director of European Affairs at the Overseas Liaison Office. He fled to Japan via China in 1957.

Founding members of the Salvation Front included Yi Sang-cho, head of the North Korean delegation to the Korean armistice talks in 1953 and ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1955 to 1956; Yu Sung-chol, vice supreme chief of staff during the Korean war; Pak Pyong-yul, a former superintendent of the Kangdong Political Academy, which was a guerrilla school; and Kang Sang-ho, a former vice interior minister.

The front has issued a declaration that accuses Kim Il-song of betraying the people who supported him and built North Korea.

"We, founding members of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in September 1949, hereby declare that we were completely betrayed by Kim Il-song, who shortly after taking power provoked the genocidal Korean war and detained, tortured and murdered many patriots to conceal his wrongdoings and hold on to power," according to the declaration.

"Thus, we declare the inauguration of the Salvation Front for the Democratic Unification of Choson in order to help terminate his terrorist, hereditary regime and turn it into an open, reformist state."

It calls for Kim Il-song and his heir-apparent, Kim Chong-il, to step down immediately, and warns obliquely of an "unexpected fate" if they stand in the way of the democratic reunification of Korea.

Pak says the organization will start working for the removal of Kim from power by printing and mailing newsletters to North Korean Army officers and by giving fundraising speeches.

They have obtained the addresses of North Korean officers and will send them the newsletter to keep them informed of international events so that they can comprehend the absurdity of the regime to which they belong, Pak said.

As most of the front's founding members pioneered the foundation of North Korea's People's Army, Pak says, they might have a substantial influence on active generals. Most members of the Armed Forces, but especially the generals, harbor animosity over Kim Chong-il's elevation to supreme commander in December as he has no military background.

"The Salvation Front has set them as a rallying point for helping topple the dictatorial regime and put the people on a more open, democratic ground," he says.

Pak predicts a military revolt or uprising by the people in the near future if the current economic hardships continue.

Majority of People Polled Welcome S-N Accords

SK2202024492 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 22 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] Most Koreans questioned in a survey released Thursday said they welcomed the effectuation of the inter-Korean accords and hoped the government would continue to improve ties with the North as rapidly as, or more rapidly than now.

The Gallup survey, conducted for the Information Ministry shortly after the initiation of the historic pacts on nonaggression and denuclearization Wednesday, also found that more than half of Koreans thought the Seoul Government was more enthusiastic than Pyongyang in bringing about those accords.

Some 82 percent of the 816 respondents said they welcomed the start of the accords, and 63 percent agreed that the event signaled a shift in inter-Korean relations from the cold war to an era of reconciliation and cooperation.

While 66 percent conceded that Seoul was more actively pursuing the agreements than Pyongyang, 46 percent wanted the Seoul Government to increase its efforts to further improve ties. Thirty-seven percent favored the current pace, whereas 17 percent said Seoul was going too fast.

Two out of ten respondents predicted that North Korean society would undergo rapid changes in the wake of the accords. Forty seven percent foresaw gradual changes, whereas 23 percent said North Korea would remain more or less as it is now.

Reporters Return From Premier Talks in Pyongyang

DPRK Reality 'Closed' to Visitors

SK2202020692 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 22 Feb 92 p 5

[Article by staff reporter Kim Song-pok, who returned to Seoul on 21 February after a four-day stay in Pyongyang to cover the North-South high level talks: "Visitors Completely Barred From Real Life of Pyongyang"]

[Text] "Are you a reporter from Seoul? I have a question," said a man in his 20's who introduced himself as a student at Pyongyang Music School. I was looking around the Grand People's Study House, a big library which is the pride of Pyongyang, along with members of the South Korean delegation to the 6th inter-Korean prime ministers' talks.

Hundreds of people, young and middle-aged, were poring over books at long and narrow desks in the reading hall. The study house is known to have more than 600 rooms with 5,000 seats and 30 million volumes.

"Go ahead," I replied.

"My question is about human rights in the South. The situation seems to be very bad," the student went on.

"Well, how did you get the knowledge about human rights in South Korea?" I asked.

The student pointed to photographs in a Russian-language magazine, replying, "From this magazine." Riot police were quelling demonstrators in one photo and a bleeding protester was being whisked away by the police in the other.

"What do the captions say?" I asked again. The student appeared hesitating. Then North Koran guides around me prodded the student to give the answer.

But the answer was surprising. "I cannot read Russian, but." My guide was quick to pull me away from the scene, saying, "Hurry up, please. We should catch up with other members of the party."

Next day, the delegation from Seoul was escorted to Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, another showcase of Pyongyang. The chief of the hospital guided the delegation to the rooms of electrocardiography and echocardiogram and said the medical equipment is the most sophisticated in the North.

A physician from Seoul asked, "Can this monochrome cardiogram not detect the congenital heart problems of infants?" The reply was, "I am afraid not."

At the room for the liver function test, one male and one female "doctor" were looking into microscopes. The physician from Seoul asked them, "Which method do you adopt for test, RPHA or ELISA or RIA?" There was no answer.

In the private room of a doctor in the hospital, about 70 books were on the shelves. Of them, some 20 were medical books and the others were on "chuche" ideologies and revolutions. When the physician from Seoul picked out a medical book, it was an empty card-board bookcase.

On the way to the hospital, my guide asked why the South Korean Government refuses to set free the imprisoned Miss Im Su-kyong, who made an unauthorized visit to Pyongyang in 1988 and regarded as a heroine by the North Koreans. He said she should be released now that the great North-South agreements were concluded.

"She broke the law of the Republic of Korea and was sentenced to a five-year term in prison. What is the punishment for such a law-breaker here in Pyongyang? You must know about the Criminal Code of yours which provides death for such a secret visit to the South?" I asked him.

His answer was that he "heard" about the Criminal Code. In the North, the Criminal Code is a "secret" to the ordinary people.

Even inside Pyongyang, the reality of North Korea remained closed. It was a frustrating experience for the visitors who try to have a first-hand look at its society with an open mind.

The ubiquitous slogans called for an endless loyalty to the "Great Leader" Kim Il-song and his heir-apparent son "Dear Leader" Chong-il and urged increased production of vegetables.

The banners and signs on buildings and on walls in Pyongyang made the visitors from the capitalist South feel suffocating. The slogans appeared not to tolerate anybody to remain aloof from the Workers' Party line for a single moment.

"When the party decides, we follow," the people pledge in the slogans.

At almost every railroad station, workers are exhorted to fulfill their jobs as they fight in war.

Elementary school students are urged to "Learn for the Sake of Motherland Chosun."

"Ideology, Culture and Technology for the needs of the party," another sign said, apparently prohibiting individual initiatives on ideology, culture and technology.

The majority of the slogans are for Kim Il-song and his son Chong-il. The slogans dedicated to Kim Chong-il seemed to outnumber those for his father, indicating that "power inheritance" is imminent.

But a North Korean official who I met during the stay in Pyongyang said that North Korea is still governed by Kim Il-song.

"As long as the Great Leader is in good health, it will take sometime for the Dear Leader to take over the presidency."

Change in Attitudes Noted

SK2302005992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0531 GMT 22 Feb 92

[By Ko Han-sung, "who writes about North Korea for YONHAP and spent four days in Pyongyang to cover the inter-Korean prime ministerial talks 18-21 Feb"—YONHAP note]

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 21 (YONHAP)—The city of Pyongyang has two faces.

Towering above the gloomy and drab dwellings of its ordinary citizens are grand and magnificent public buildings that assert power and authority over the poor and down-trodden.

This contrast becomes strangely more prominent at night.

Illuminated brilliantly, the revolutionary museum, the people's library, the arch of triumph and other public buildings stand proudly against the background of what looks like a ghost city of lifeless houses and low-rise apartments.

It is the same with the people who live there.

The students who were mobilized to perform dazzling gymnastics for the visitors from the South and the North Korean officials who attended the banquets had bright and happy faces, but nearly everybody we met on the street had dark and tired expressions.

They did not even turn their heads when the South Korean delegation to the prime ministers' talks sped along the city's car-less roads in a motorcade.

Puzzled by this sullen and almost rude reception by ordinary citizens, a visitor asked a North Korean guide: "Have we done something wrong?"

The guide hesitated a little, and then replied: "How can they welcome you when you keep people in prison for visiting North Korea to help unify the country?" He was referring to the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and Yim Su-kyong, an activist co-ed, in jail for their unauthorized trip to North Korea.

At the people's library, a student who identified himself as Pak Song-hun made a similar comment when he was asked why ordinary Pyongyang citizens are so uninterested in the visitors from the South.

"How can they be interested in you?" He shot back. "While claiming you are working to unify the country, you arrest democratic people and refuse to kick the American troops from your country.

"You should know why we are so cold toward people like you."

Like a worn-out gramophone record, everybody made the same old remarks whenever and wherever he or she was invited to comment on South Korea. While North Korea insists on non-interference in its internal affairs, all North Koreans unfailingly demand the release of South Koreans convicted of violating the nation's laws and the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

They also express uneasiness over what they perceive to be South Korea's lack of will to carry out its obligations under the two inter-Korean accords.

It must be acknowledged, however, that there was a definite change in the attitude of most North Koreans after the inter-Korean accords took effect on Thursday.

Unlike in the past, when North Koreans looked on members of South Korean delegations as though they were some kind of detestable object, it was easy to detect an effort on their part not to irritate their visitors unnecessarily.

Gone were the obvious and concerted verbal offensives that so-called ordinary Pyongyang citizens flung against the Southern reporters during the 4th round of the premiers' conference.

Gone also was the almost fanatic enthusiasm among North Koreans, expressed in the strongest terms, for the Southerners during first round of the talks.

The turnaround in the North Korean attitude can be seen as a reflection of an official change. But changes are also detectable in the deep recesses of people with whom the visitors had a chance to talk to privately.

A guide, admitting that he knew there had been trade between the South and the North through third countries, ventured to say: "Would it not be nice for us to conduct direct trade? It would surely benefit both our peoples, would it not?"

A North Korean reporter at a banquet confessed that everybody knows the South is more advanced economically than the North and that the North is experiencing difficulties.

Admittedly, men like this who wanted to be frank about North Korea's economic difficulties were rare, with most people still turning blind eyes to the state of their country. But the fact that there were a few who even took a risk of saying such things to a visitor was unthinkable in the old days.

Another man, who identified himself as a newspaper reporter, said there are some farmers who come to cities to sell their produce when government rationing is not going well. This produce is better than that distributed by the government, but the prices are too high, he said, sharing confidential information and thus giving a glimpse of what is going on in areas of North Korea where no foreign visitors are allowed.

Pre-Approval Required on DPRK Business Deals

SK2202054092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0502 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 22 (YONHAP)—The government intends to require businesses to negotiate deals or projects with North Korea only through the government and not on an individual basis.

Prime Minister Chong Won-sik told a cabinet meeting Saturday that at the inter-Korean prime ministerial talks in Pyongyang he informed the North that the government would be the sole conduit for all business negotiations.

"I urged the North Koreans not to try to seek business deals with South Korean businessmen on an individual basis," he said.

Two leading businessmen recently visited Pyongyang and struck large business deals there over the head of the Seoul Government.

As the basic South-North Korean agreement has taken effect, ministries should fully prepare for follow-up talks and programs for the solid promotion of inter-Korean reconciliation and cooperation, he said.

"We should be firm and cool in our position in bringing a complex North Korea to the track of national co-prosperity and unification," Chong said.

North Koreans Face Electricity, Food Shortages

SK2302032392 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 23 Feb 92 p 2,5

[First part of series entitled "Pyongyang as I See It" by HERALD political writer Kang Sang-yun who covered the sixth round of inter-Korean prime ministers talks in Pyongyang 18-21 Feb: "Life Appears Hard in Stalinist North Korea"]

[Text] Life, as widely reported by the Western press, seems hard in North Korea, one of the few remaining communist posts.

There are many signs that North Koreans are facing shortages in electricity and food. Even the tree-lined boulevards of Pyongyang, capital of the Stalinist state, were dimly lit at night. Some roads in the city had no light whatsoever. People were walking on such a road when cars carrying South Korean delegates and reporters to the just-ended sixth premiers' talks passed by.

The drab apartments lining the boulevards were also no exception. Lighting in many flats seemed poor. Many apartments had the lights off as early as 8 p.m. when most Pyongyang residents are supposed to be at home.

The Grand People's Study House, a mix of a library and tutoring institute, is a major tourist destination for foreigners visiting Pyongyang. A bad impression was created by its poor lighting, however. In many of the rooms and corridors it was hard for one to read books even in the daytime.

The electricity shortage in North Korea is due mainly to the drop in the oil the country receives from Russia. Former Ambassador to Russia Kong No-myong has said that Russia's yearly oil supply to the North has been cut to 100,000 tons.

The communist state, however, cannot afford to purchase more oil from other countries because it is devoid of hard currency, he has said.

There have been reports that Pyongyang has been trying to bring in oil from Iran in exchange for arms.

Chinese reporters based in Pyongyang said North Koreans are lacking in goods. A PEOPLE'S DAILY correspondent said there are real food shortages in the North. "In China store shelves are full of goods. One can buy anything. But things here are different."

Another Chinese reporter, Shang Jinfang of XINHUA New Agency, agreed. Asked whether the North Korean economy is in trouble, he said, "Other countries are going through economic difficulties, too, are they not?"

A Western reporter said he found North Koreans are unable to turn out basic home appliances properly. "I wonder how they can make an atomic bomb," he said sarcastically.

All the 50 Seoul reporters, who visited the North Korean capital for the high-level talks, were denied access to groceries or department stores. Even daily necessities available at the Paekhwawon Guest House, which usually accommodates only foreign VIP's, are of bad quality. In particular, toilet paper appeared to be much worse than that used in major hotels in Moscow.

As if to attest that food is scarce, fat people are hard to find. Fat girls are said to be a target of envy in North Korea.

The North Korean authorities were trying to conceal the scarcity of goods. Or they appeared to be indulged in luxury.

The inside of the Grand People's Cultural Palace was lit as bright as day. "You do not need to use a flash to take pictures," said one North Korean reporter during a party thrown fore the South Korean visitors.

To be sure, sumptuous meals were offered to the visitors at the Cultural Palace and Paekhwawon Guest House. Kim Chong-whi, Seoul's presidential secretary for security affairs, quipped, "We cannot afford to give such food to them (North Korean VIP's) in the South."

Signs such as, "Ours is a happy life," were seen in streets. Surprisingly, some North Koreans admitted to their economic plight.

A reporter said, "I understand that any country tends to experience ups and downs."

He insisted that people in the North are "satisfied" with their present life since they are "all equals."

"We do not experience the economic disparity between the rich and the poor which exists in capitalist societies," he added.

Another North Korean reporter was more bold. He was quoted as telling a Seoul reporter that South Korea is far more advanced than his country economically. "I know that we are facing economic hardships," he added. The unidentified reporter, who drank at a party, said the North may be unable to overcome its difficulties unless it engages in brisk trade with foreign countries. He said North Korea has been pursuing a "self-supporting economy as a national policy."

But many other North Koreans would not acknowledge their economic difficulties. A reporter from the NODONG SINMUN, organ of the North Korean Workers's Party, aid his country has enough grain. A comparison of the North's arable land and its population proves that North Koreans have enough food like rice, he contended. He admitted that North Korea had decided to import 1 million tons of rice from Thailand last year, but he said "It was not because we were short of food. We cannot eat the Thai rice since it is not good for us. So we will use the grain as animal fodder after it is ground."

Reports on Nationwide Antigovernment Rallies

Police Brace for Violence

SK2202051292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0451 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 22 (YONHAP)—Violence is feared Saturday afternoon when radical students and dissidents go ahead with their planned anti-government rallies nationwide.

Chonkukyonhap, an all-embracing alliance of dissident groups in Korea, says it will stage rallies in 12 major cities to bash the government and the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, accusing them of their alleged mismanagement of state affairs, especially for the underprivileged. It says at least 30,000 students and dissidents will take part in the protest meetings.

Police have vowed the rallies, outlawed by both the police and the Central Election Management Committee, will be prevented from taking place "from the source" by blocking participants from reaching every rally site, as in the past.

Chonkukyonhap was launched late last year by accommodating a number of dissident groups in an attempt to wage an organized fight against the government.

In Seoul, the rally will take place at Tapkol, a downtown park.

Approximately 15,000 policemen have been stationed around the rally sites in Seoul and elsewhere to prevent the rallies and to stop protests spilling over to the streets, a police spokesman said.

'No Serious Clashes' Reported

SK2302012292 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 23 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] Defying a police ban, some 4,000 dissidents and students pushed ahead with planned antigovernment rallies in Seoul and six major cities throughout the country yesterday afternoon, but no serious clashes were reported.

Organizer of the rallies, Chonkukyonhap, or the National Federation for Democracy and National Unification, said yesterday that it will also hold antiruling party rallies in four cities, including Pusan, Today.

Bracing for the first-of-the year rallies, some 15,000 riot policemen were posted to prevent people from reaching rally sites.

In Seoul, about 1,500 dissidents and students gathered at Hangyang University at 4 p.m. yesterday to hold an anti-government rally. The ralliers called for the resignation of the current government, repeal of the National Security Law and the immediate effectuation of the accord between the South and North."

Some 1,000 dissidents and students held an antigovernment rally at Chosun University in Kwangju and called for the 'rights of the masses."

In Sunchon, Chollanam-to, about 300 dissidents and students took to the streets after a rally at Sunchon University at 3 p.m. and clashed violently with tear gas-firing riot troopers, hurling firebombs, police said.

In line with Chonkukyonhap, about 400 students of the five Seoul universities held gatherings respectively at their campuses in the morning and resolved to take active part in the rally.

Chonkukyonhap earlier notified police of their planned rally asking for approval but police decided Wednesday not to allow the rallies.

International Drug Dealers Penetrating Market

SK2202035992 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 22 Feb 92 p 3

[Article by staff reporter Kim Sang-u: "International Drug Rings Muscling in on Lucrative Korean Market"]

[Excerpt] Attracted by a lucrative market, international drug dealers are making inroads into Korea, where drug prices are reportedly about fifteen times higher than those in other countries, a high-ranking drug enforcement official said yesterday.

In an interview with THE KOREA HERALD, Yu Chang-chong, director of the Narcotics Division at the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office, said that drugs are no longer easily available in the country because domestic drug production is believed to have come to a standstill.

"The is a result of heavy government checks and harsh punishment," he said.

In the early 1980's, Korea was regarded as the base providing nearly half of the hiroppon used in Japan and Taiwan.

The seizure of a large amount of cocaine on two recent occasions has created the widespread fear that Korea is no longer a "safe zone" from the drug, however.

Two Colombian nationals were arrested for smuggling 4kg of cocaine into the country, worth 20 billion won (about $26 million), Feb. 6. The next day, nearly 1kg of cocaine was found abandoned on a Korean Air flight bound to Seoul from Los Angeles.

"Korea has become a drug-importing country, with billions of dollars being drained out of the country" he said.

He said that international drug dealers must have set up an underground sales network in the country, as they would not be able to operate otherwise. [passage omitted]

Burma

Foreign Ministry Statement on Rohingya Muslims

BK2102154192 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] issued a press release today. It reads:

Foreign broadcasting stations like the BBC and VOA, as well as press agencies recently have been carrying exaggerated and fabricated reports claiming that due to persecution and repression of Muslims in Rakhine [Arakan] State by Myanmar authorities along the Myanmar-Bangladesh border areas, a large number of Myanmar Muslims have fled to Bangldesh. Moreover, attempts are being made to discredit Myanmar using the so-called Rohingya problem.

Biased and prejudiced people from inside and outside the country have enlarged the issue in trying to drive a wedge between Myanmar and Bangladesh as well as between Myanmar and the Muslim community. Indeed, they even broadcast a news article to the effect that Myanmar was threatening Bangladesh.

In fact, although there are 135 national races residing in Myanmar today, the so-called Rohingya people are not among them. Historically, there has never been a Rohingya race in Myanmar. The very name Rohingya was a creation of a group of insurgents in the Rakhine State.

Since the First Anglo-Myanmar War in 1824, people of the Muslim faith from the adjacent country have entered Myanmar illegally, particularly Rakhine State. Being illegal immigrants, they do not hold any immigration papers like the other nationals of the country. With the passage of time, the number of people who entered Myanmar illegally has become greatly inflated. In the present case, people who dare not submit themselves to the routine scrutiny of national registration cards by immigration officials fled to the neighboring country. It is not a unique experience, for such occurences regularly took place in the past when immigration checks were carried out. It should be categorically stated that there is no persecution based on religious grounds.

From the very beginning freedom of worship flourished in Myanmar and religious persecution did not exist in the past. It is not practiced at the moment and will not be practiced in the future. Like all other countries of the world, Myanmar exercises its inherent right of self-defense in suppressing insurgents in the country, but it needs to emphasize that the action has no connection with race or religion, but was undertaken to suppress armed terrorists.

The Union of Myanmar maintains goodneighbor relations with all the neighboring countries based on friendship, understanding, and goodwill. Myanmar has never allowed organizations that have taken up arms against neighboring countries to be based on Myanmar territory and never will allow them in the future. Although some terrorist groups that are engaged in armed attacks and destructive activities against the Myanmar Government are operating in the neighboring country, Myanmar has adhered strictly to the norms and principles of international practice.

The Defense Service, with its noble tradition, does not torture or commit brutal acts against the people and has scrupulously avoided acts of religious repression.

The Defense Service, which was established to protect the independence and sovereignty of the country, does not entertain any intention of committing aggression against any other country. The defense measures undertaken are solely for safeguarding peace and the tranquillity of the country and the interests of the people; they are not directed at any country.

The Myanmar and Bangladesh Governments are endeavoring to resolve the issue on the basis of the 1980 bilateral agreement and in the spirit of friendship and understanding. Therefore, no problem of magnitude exists between the two countries. The issue of the incidents at the border between the two countries, as well as the question of the people who are presently crossing the border, is being resolved through diplomatic means.

Although the media have spoken of absconders numbering in the tens of thousands, to date the official figure conveyed to the Myanmar side by Bangladesh is a little over 4,000. Therefore, no matter how much the unscrupulous elements in the country and abroad try to deceive, fabricate, and magnify this problem, which actually has its roots in immigration procedures, their endeavors surely will come to naught. Likewise, attempts to sow discord between Myanmar and Bangladesh also will be in vain, as will efforts to gain advantage by misusing religion.

Junta Adds Seven Years to Tin U Sentence

BK2202043592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Feb 92 p 6

[Text] Burma's military junta has jailed the former head of the main opposition party for seven more years and seems to be preparing to sentence other dissidents detained without trial, a political source said yesterday.

Tin U, chairman of the National League for Democracy (NLD) when he was detained in July 1989, was sentenced to three years in December that year for subversion.

A military tribunal meeting two weeks ago added seven years to his sentence, said the source in Rangoon. The junta has not announced the decision.

Since Tin U's detention the military has coerced the remnants of the NLD leadership into expelling him from the party.

The source said Tin U's increased sentence had raised fears the junta might soon try his NLD colleague Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been held under house arrest, also since July 1989, but never tried.

Aung San Suu Kyi, the league's general secretary until she was expelled in the same manner as Tin U, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last year for standing up to what the award committee called "a regime characterised by brutality".

The source said the junta recently brought formal charges against Aung San Suu Kyi's personal assistant Ma Thanegi, who was detained at the same time as her.

"They seem to be tying up loose ends and some people think they will probably move against Aung San Suu Kyi soon," the source said.

Under the terms the junta has set for Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest, her detention can be extended to a maximum of five years.

The award of the Nobel Peace Prize brought a flood of international calls for her release and for the junta to hand over power to the NLD.

The party won the May 1990 general election by a landslide but instead of letting it govern the junta has arrested most of its leaders.

They say many local NLD officials have resigned in protest at the remaining leadership's acquiescence to junta demands.

Diplomats say the junta has jailed or forced into exile more than 100 of the 392 NLD politians who won seats in the election.

Among those in jail is Kyi Maung, who led the NLD to its election win and was later sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment at the age of 72 on what diplomats called trumped up charges of disclosing state secrets.

Troops Prepare To Seize Resistance-Held Manerplaw

BK2302060192 Hong Kong AFP in English 0555 GMT 23 Feb 92

[By Erskine McCullough]

[Text] Manerplaw, Burma, Feb 23 (AFP)—Burmese troops are poised to seize the capital of the country's anti-government resistance movements after six weeks of almost daily bombardment against key defence positions.

The Rangoon junta has vowed to crush the resistance, made up of a dozen groupings including a jungle-based parallel government set up by the National League for Democracy (NLD) and ethnic Karens who have been fighting for greater automony for 43 years with little success.

Their determination turned into a cold rage when the NLD, headed by imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, fled into the jungle in late 1990 after the junta refused to hand over power despite its crushing victory in elections in May that year.

In the latest offensive, which got under way in late December, Burmese troops have come closer to Manerplaw than ever before, and Karen guerrillas, entrenched in the jungle-clad hills shadowing the town, have been devastated by the shelling.

With the start of the rainy season—and with it a massive reduction in the fighting—more than two months away, time is also against the resistance groups.

In only the last six weeks they have had nearly 10 percent of their tiny fighting force put out of action.

Ranged against the 2,000 to 2,500 strong guerrilla army are 10,000 Burmese Government troops who have been ordered by Rangoon to take the town by March 27, Armed Forces Day.

By mid-February the Karens had more men killed and wounded than in the whole of January.

"This has been a very bad month for us," said Karen Prime Minister Ba Thin, as he tallied up the latest casualty lists at his headquarters in the centre of Manerplaw, a sprawling settlement of wooden huts and dirt tracks.

In the distance could be heard the explosions of the Burmese mortars that are taking such a toll. Last month 20 Karens were killed and 75 wounded. Up to Febuary 17, 19 had been killed and 88 wounded.

"The 120 millimetre mortars are taking a terrible toll," said Ba Thin.

Burmese casualties have dropped off as field commanders have reduced the number of frontal attacks, waiting until they believe the Karen defences have been sufficiently softened up.

The key to Manerplaw's survival is Sleeping Dog mountain, where Karens are entrenched atop the 4,000 foot (1,220 metre) peak. If Rangoon can take and hold the mountain, top Karen officials admit, Manerplaw will be finished.

The peak would allow Burmese troops to shell the town at will and to control the Salween River, the main route for supplies to be brought up to the front lines by boat.

Rangoon troops managed to overun Sleeping Dog last year, but were only able to hold it for a few days before the Karens retook it amidst fierce fighting.

Earlier this month over 500 Burmese troops tried to cut off the narrow supply trail up the steep mountainside along which Karen porters trek daily.

But the ill-prepared Burmese soldiers, untrained for fighting in some of the most inhospitable jungle terrain in the world, were cut off by the Karens and forced to flee.

Scores of Burmese troops were killed or injured and the Karens were able to seize much-needed weapons and ammunition.

To harrass the enemy, the Karens have been sending out special commando units with orders to try and seize the heavy mortars being used against them.

Several days ago one such group managed to capture a Swedish-made anti-tank rocket launcher which fires cluster shells with deadly effect. Only two of the weapons are in use by the Burmese on the frontline and news that one had been taken sparked off an almost festive spirit all along the battle front.

But the Karens only managed to capture three rockets with the weapon, none of them cluster shells.

Since the offensive began, thousands of Karen refugees have fled their villages and crossed into Thailand along the banks of the Moei.

Last month virtually all women and children were evacuated from Manerplaw, which now resembles a ghost town while only resistence leaders and a scattering of women and children remain.

Troops are rarely seen in the settlement these days, every available man having been sent up to the front.

But even if Manerplaw falls, both the resistance and independent observers say the battle against Burma's military rulers will continue.

"Manerplaw is the symbol of the struggle against Rangoon. If it falls there is no doubt it will be a massive physological blow, but the battle will continue," one Rangoon-based diplomat said.

"The resistance will simply move into other Karen areas," he said.

Young Soldiers Used in Fighting

BK2402032292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0128 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By Erskine McCullough]

[Text] Karen Frontline, Burma, Feb 24 (AFP)—Hundreds of ill-trained teenagers are being thrown into the frontline by Burma's military junta in the bloody battle for Manerplaw, the symbolic capital of the anti-government resistance movement.

Burmese prisoners of war, some as young as 15, tell harrowing tales of their fight against the Karens in some of the most inhospitable fighting terrain in the world.

Their stories reveal that although the Burmese troops being used in a massive dry season offensive to try and finally crush the 43-year-old Karen struggle for greater autonomy outnumber the opposition more than five to one, the quality of the troops on the two sides is vastly different.

Most of the Karens are seasoned fighters, used to the torturous mountain paths that wind their way around the almost vertical slopes that act as a natural wall protecting Manerplaw.

For many of the Burmese troops, climbing through the dense, lush jungle, it is more a question of survival than trying to launch a serious attack.

"It was terrifying. I had no idea what to expect before I arrived at the front. I was totally unprepared," 15 year-old Win Hle told AFP minutes after giving himself up to Karen soldiers.

The slightly built Win Hle, his poorly fitting army shirt spattered with blood, was near collapse as he was led into the Karen's frontline position high above the Saleen River.

"I have been in the jungle for two weeks and have had almost no sleep. I am exhausted. I don't want to die. I want to live," the youth said, his right index finger split open and cut to the bone in what he said was an accident at his Burmese camp.

Other captured Burmese teenagers tell similar nightmare stories, adding that hundreds of their colleagues are also in their teens.

Kyaw Moe, still wearing his dog tag stamped with the number 780345B, enlisted with the Army nine months ago and was sent to the 66th division.

"I had six months training but what I learnt there bears no resemblance to the conditions here. I have never been so scared in my life," 17-year-old Kyaw Moe said.

He was one of almost 500 Burmese troops trying to cut off the Karen's supply route to Sleeping Dog mountain, the key defensive position to Manerplaw.

The plan was to sneak through Karen positions and come around the back of the mountain while Burmese mortar units continued their heavy shelling on the other side.

But the vastly more mobile Karens cut off Kyaw Moe and his fellow soldiers, and after a six day deadly game of hide and seek the Burmese troops were in total dissaray, fleeing for their lives.

Kyaw Moe and three of his friends got separated from the main group. Before Kyaw Moe surrendered, his three friends had been shot dead by the Karens.

Aung Niang was one of 20 Burmese troops trying to thread their way back to their camp through the Karen lines. But after at least 10 of his colleagues were killed in a furious one-hour firefight, Aung Niang surrendered.

"I had no idea how terrible war would be," the 19-year-old said, his right arm shattered by grenade shrapnel.

Aung Niang said the Burmese troops were suffering from serious supply problems as scores of porters flee daily for the Karen lines and protection. Fresh water and food is slow in getting to the Burmese frontlines.

"I have more water and more food as a prisoner than I ever had with my unit," said Aung Niang.

All of the teenager POWs seem baffled as to why they are fighting the Karens.

"I don't know. No one ever explained anything to us," said Kyaw Moe. "We are just told we are going to fight the Karens."

"We never discussed it amongst ourselves. If our commander decides we must attack, that is his decision," added Kyaw Moe.

All of the Burmese soldiers were told that if they were captured by the Karens they would be tortured and then executed.

The POWs added that they were also told that if they were captured they would be jailed for three years when they returned to their Burmese villages.

"I want to stay here. I don't want to go to jail," said Aung Niang.

Karen officials say the POWs will eventually be released after being fully debriefed—some to live in Karen villagers, others allowed to return home, if they can survive the journey.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Defense Minister Meets French Counterpart

BK2402073892 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0706 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 24 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia is studying the possibility of upgrading its bilateral co-operation with France in defence matters, Defence Minister Najib Razak said Monday [24 February].

He said the areas being studied included training, exchange of officers, and other aspects of defence facilities.

"The matters are being discussed by officials of the two countries who will submit the outcome to their respective governments," he told reporters after receiving his French counterpart, Pierre Jox, at his office here.

At the meeting, Jox, who was accompanied by six senior officers, also exchanged views with Najib on political and security matters, particularly those affecting Southeast Asia and Europe.

Najib said France had no objection to the U.S. plan to use Singapore as one of its military repair and maintenance facilities.

Jox and his delegation later paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed.

Amendment To Ensure Monarchy's Compliance

BK2402063792 Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 18 Feb 92 pp 1,2

[Excerpt] Kuala Lumpur, 17 Feb—The monarchy will be required to comply with the "advice" given by the prime minister and chief ministers under an amendment in the Federal Constitution and state constitutions. The amendment will make it compulsory for the monarchy to comply with the "advice."

The amendment will also veto any move by the monarchy that does not comply with the "advice" given by the prime minister and chief ministers.

A reliable source today told UTUSAN MALAYSIA that the amendment is not meant to clip the powers of the monarchy but to draw a clearer line as far as the authority of the two sides is concerned.

The source said the amendment will solve all recent problems arising from government-monarchy relations because the term "advice" was earlier viewed as something that did not need compliance. "The loose intrepretation of the term has made the rulers think that an issue cannot be implemented without their blessings."

The source cited the appointment of a new chief minister in a certain state where the ruler was reluctant to approve the prime minister's candidate and demanded that others be proposed.

There was also a case where a ruler refused to accept a list of State Government Executive Council members submitted by the chief minister and instead presented his own choice of members.

The source said: "The amendment will make it compulsory for the ruler to approve the prime minister's choice of a chief minister as well as the chief minister's choice of the State Government Executive Council members. The same thing applies to the appointment of senior officials who will serve in the state and other appointments which require the involvement of the monarchy. [passage omitted]

Singapore

Minister Notes U.S. Objection to EAEC Proposal

BK2302103492 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 22 Feb 92 p 21

[Text] The proposal for an East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC) would materialise if it could be put together in such a way that it met American concerns and the objectives of East Asian countries, Brigadier-General Lee Hsien Loong said yesterday.

Replying to questions, he noted that one main sensitivity of the proposal was America's objection to it.

The United States has ojected strongly to the Malaysian-initiated EAEC—which is intended to group ASEAN, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, China and Vietnam—as it feels that it would divide the world into mutually-exclusive trading blocs.

Instead, it wants ASEAN to focus on the Asia Pacific Economic co-operation forum (APEC), which comprises ASEAN, the U.S., Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

BG [Brigadier General] Lee said that while APEC provided some form of regional co-operation, "It carries us some distance but I don't believe it will carry us all the way". APEC, he said, included "a wide and widening group" of countries and because of this, its focus would be diffused.

East Asian countries, on the other hand, shared common interests and concerns. "De facto, an East Asian economy will evolve."

He reiterated that he doubted if EAEC could become a trade bloc easily as the region had many important links with countries outside the proposed caucus, such as with the US.

Thus, while East Asian countries might want to strengthen themselves, they were unlikely to want to change the current ties they shared with other countries.

Cambodia

Fourth SNC Session Held 22 Feb; Results Noted

Sihanouk Lauds Peace Progress

BK2202064192 Hong Kong AFP in English 0626 GMT 22 Feb 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Feb 22 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk convened the fourth session of the Supreme National Council (SNC) in the Cambodian capital Saturday, lauding the group's progress in implementing the peace plan ending the civil war.

"We have done a lot of work already... in the process of the democratization, rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia," Prince Sihanouk said to the interim body he heads which symbolizes Cambodia's sovereignty under United Nations supervision at the end of a nearly 13-year civil war.

"We are the only country in Indochina to de-communize and now we are extreme capitalists," he said. "We have had some cease-fire violations but we have stopped all that. We have advanced in a number of areas, but we wish to do better in implementing the process of peace."

Absent from the meeting were Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) leader Son Sann and Khmer Rouge leader Son Sen, although Khieu Samphan was present.

Asked about charges by U.N. military mission chief Brigadier General Michel Loridon that the Khmer Rouge were being uncooperative in implementing the peace plan, Prince Sihanouk said he would leave such criticism to the United Nations.

"I am a neutral president and I should not criticize them," he said.

During an early morning SNC meeting attended by Cambodians only, without the surveillance of U.N. officials and diplomats, Prince Sihanouk said Khieu Samphan was asked to be more cooperative.

Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen told the Khmer Rouge they should allow representatives of the other three factions at their headquarters in Pailin, the prince reported.

While the Khmer Rouge agreed to this three weeks ago, they have yet to comply.

Loridon, who chairs a committee of Cambodia's top generals from the four factions, charged the Khmer Rouge with non-cooperation for this reason.

"Hun Sen said (to Khieu Samphan) that since you say Vietnamese troops are attacking your zone, we can deal with you immediately. If you say there is a clash we can go to the spot with you and make an investigation," Prince Sihanouk said.

The Khmer Rouge have charged recently that Vietnamese troops were still in Cambodia and launching attacks against them, but no proof has been found.

Also at the meeting, Japanese Ambassador Yukio Imagawa donated 12 microphones and tape recorders to the SNC members in order to keep an audio record of the meeting.

Imagawa was allowed to attend the meeting, along with ambassadors from the so-called "friendly countries"—India, Thailand, Australia and Indonesia.

The group had been barred for several weeks because the Khmer Rouge objected to the Vietnamese ambassador's presence as a "friendly country," and Prince Sihanouk decided to limit the SNC to the U.N. officials and envoys from the five permanent countries on the U.N. Security Council.

However, Japan—miffed at being excluded when it is contributing significantly to the cost of the Cambodian peacekeeping operation—objected vociferously and said it would cut its funds unless it was included along with the five—Britain, China, France, Russia, and the United States.

UN Mission Chief Reports

BK2202135992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] On the morning of 22 February at Khemarin Palace, the fourth meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia was solemnly held under the highest royal chairmanship of His Royal Highness [H.R.H.] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman. Attending the meeting were Their Excellencies Dit Munti, Hor Namhong, and Hun Sen, SNC members from the State of Cambodia [SOC]; Ieng Muli, SNC member from the Khmer People's National Liberation Front; Im Chhunlim, SNC member from the SOC; Khieu Samphan, SNC member from the Party of Democratic Kampuchea; Prince Norodom Ranariddh, SNC member from the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia; and Lieutenant General Sin Sen and General Tie Banh, SNC members from the SOC.

Also present at the meeting were their excellencies the ambassadors and special envoys to Cambodia from the United States, France, United Kingdom, Russian Federation, PRC, Indonesia, Japan, India, and Australia; His Excellency [H.E.] Ataul Karim, head of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC], and the six members of the SNC secretariat.

The meeting listened carefully to H.E. Ataul Karim's report on a UN plan to send civilian and military administrators to Cambodia to enhance the implementation of the Cambodian peace accord. The meeting also highly valued an upcoming visit to be paid by H.R.H. Prince Norodom Sihanouk to various regions of the Cambodian opposition. This is evidence of national reunification and unity aimed at bringing about genuine and just peace for the motherland and people.

Communique Issued

BK2402053192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 24 Feb 92

["Communique of the meeting of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia"—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. The Supreme National Council [SNC] meeting was held at 1000 on the morning of 22 February under the lofty chairmanship of His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state and SNC chairman.

Present as observers were His Excellency [H.E.] Ataul Karim, leader of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia, and representatives of the Big Five and the Republic of Indonesia, and diplomats in Cambodia.

2. HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk noted the success of several SNC meetings held since his historic return to Phnom Penh capital as Cambodia's head of state and SNC chairman.

Once again, the SNC pledged to fully implement the Paris agreement of 23 October 1991.

3. On behalf of his colleagues of the Big Five, H.E. (?Coste) and the U.S. diplomatic envoy highly valued HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk's decision to visit various regions of the Cambodian opposition. This is evidence of his tireless and incessant efforts to promote national reunification.

4. Prince Norodom Ranariddh expressed his view on H.E. Ataul Karim's report, which was also mentioned in the UN secretary general's report on the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], to the UN Security Council, was significant to both the SNC and all Cambodians who want the UNTAC to quickly and urgently come to Cambodia.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 22 February 1992

Sihanouk To Ask UN To Verify SRV Withdrawal

BK2302062892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0609 GMT 23 Feb 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Feb 23 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk reacting Sunday to charges by at least two Cambodian factions that Vietnamese agents and troops remain in the country, said he would ask UNTAC to verify Hanoi's withdrawal immediately.

The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), headed by Yasushi Akashi, is due to arrive March 15.

"I will immediately ask them to make an investigation all over Cambodia to try to discover elements of Vietnamese troops," Prince Sihanouk said. "The only way to know the truth is to be patient, to wait for the arrival of Mr. Akashi and UNTAC."

Vietnam, which ousted the Khmer Rouge in 1979 and installed the current Phnom Penh government, has insisted that all its troops withdrew in 1989 and that no military advisors remain.

Diplomats and other observers here, however, believe some advisors remain in the interior ministry and other security agencies, but that the presence is insignificant.

The Khmer Rouge have repeatedly charged over the last few weeks that Vietnamese troops were attacking their positions and that Vietnamese infiltrators were permeating Cambodian society.

On Saturday, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) added to the charge in its KP Bulletin, saying that demobilized Vietnamese soldiers were hiding among the population.

"They hide themselves as civilians, armed within their own houses" on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, the opposition newspaper said.

Using the pejorative word "yuon" which literally means "savage" in the Khmer language, the article said: "The former yuon soldiers will make activity soon... and will continue their destruction until the society is free from lice."

It also said hundreds of "yuon prostitutes" were pouring into Phnom Penh and corrupting the society, calling them a "cancer that is difficult to cure."

Prince Sihanouk said that if UNTAC does find "a few Vietnamese elements, those elements will be happy to go home."

He urged the KPNLF and Khmer Rouge to be patient. "Please be fair and don't give me headaches too much," he said.

Prince Sihanouk said he does not believe there are any Vietnamese troops operating in Cambodia, and said that on his visits to the provinces he has not seen many Vietnamese at all.

The Phnom Penh government has also denied the presence of any Vietnamese troops or advisors.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, on an official visit to Cambodia last month, said Vietnam left only economic and technical advisors here after its withdrawal.

The question of what constitutes a Vietnamese is tricky, as many ethnic Vietnamese were born in Cambodia, and the southern border with Vietnam around the Mekong Delta has always been porous, with many intermarriages and much cross-border settlement.

A group of people considered to be ethnic Cambodians called the Kampuchea Krom are from the southern tip of Vietnam, and many of them have come to live on this side of the border.

Over the last decade of Vietnamese occupation, many people—including soldiers—from Hanoi settled here and began to raise families.

Whether they can be counted as occupying forces is a difficult question, diplomats say.

"I don't know what is the truth about this," Prince Sihanouk said. "I must rely on Mr. Akashi."

Promises April 1993 Elections

BK2302130592 Hong Kong AFP in English 1238 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Feb 23 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk promised a visiting Australian minister Sunday that elections for a new Cambodian Government would be held in April 1993.

He also said he would run for head of state for a five-year, renewable term after the elections to the National Assembly are carried out by the United Nations.

"It is not useful to be elected as president for life ... not to try to imitate Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines," who suspended the constitution and ruled until he was deposed in 1986.

The elections "must be held before the rainy season in April or May, May at the latest," the prince told Australia's junior minister for defense science and personnel, Gordon Bilney, who arrived Sunday for a three-day visit.

But later Prince Sihanouk added, "I promise the elections will take place in April or the end of April 1993."

Several non-government organizations in Phnom Penh have recently raised doubts about the ability of the United Nations to repatriate 370,000 refugees from border camps in time for the elections.

They point to the large number of mines that need to be removed and financial hurdles cleared to build housing and set up the refugees in their new agrarian lifestyle.

Bilney, accompanied by Lieutenant General John Coates, chief of the general staff of the Australian Army, is due to meet top military officials of all Cambodian factions during his visit.

He is also due to inspect the headquarters of the 65 Australian military personnel already deployed in Cambodia, and award medals to all his troops in a ceremony at the Angkor Temple complex in Siem Reap.

"We hope to make a major contribution to UNTAC," the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, Bilney said.

He said Australia, in addition to supplying commander of UNTAC's military forces, John Sanderson, would send 550 soldiers as part of the U.N. peacekeeping operation due to be deployed next month.

Wants Resolution to Land Dispute

BK2302125492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1231 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Feb 23 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk said Sunday he had asked the Phnom Penh government to resolve a land dispute on the outskirts of the capital, which resulted in one death and several injuries last week.

Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) representative Ieng Mouli wrote to Prince Sihanouk asking him to help resolve the problem after several displaced people went to the KPNLF for help.

About 360 families were thrown out of a field by military police on Thursday and Friday, and violence erupted when several people refused to go.

One woman was killed by a stray bullet.

"They say they are the owners of the land," the prince said, noting he would send Phnom Penh Deputy Premier Kong Sam-ol and the chief of his cabinet to resolve the dispute.

"I beg him to resolve the problem in all fairness, in all equity, in all justice," Prince Sihanouk said.

The prince said he would also meet with the representatives of the displaced people.

Military officers at the field on Friday told AFP that the land belonged to the government, even though some people there said they built their houses in 1979.

Such scenes are becoming increasingly frequent around Phnom Penh.

Not To Stay Overnight in Pailin

BK2202065092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0627 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Feb 22 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who leaves for a week-long trip to guerrilla-controlled zones on Monday, has dropped plans to sleep at Khmer Rouge headquarters in Pailin.

"I cannot spend the night because I cannot bring my luggage and my North Korean bodyguards," Prince Sihanouk said, noting that there was not enough space on the helicopter to keep him comfortable in the provinces.

The prince had planned to spend the night in each of three zones controlled by the factions previously fighting to oust the Phnom Penh government. Instead, he will make day trips by helicopter from the northwest provincial capital of Battambang.

He is due to travel to the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) zone headquarters of Banteay Meanrit near the Thai border on Tuesday and Wednesday, and to the Khmer Rouge zone in Pailin on Thursday and Friday.

Saturday he is scheduled to visit his own loyalists at the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] headquarters, directed by his son Prince Norodom Ranariddh, in Phum Ku.

Prince Sihanouk also announced he would spend April 9-30 in Beijing for a medical checkup. He also said he would be travelling to four or five more provinces in Cambodia in March, including those close to Vietnam, the southern port of Kampong Som, and the central province of Siem Reap, site of the Angkor temple complex.

Speaks At Prisoner Release 23 Feb

BK2402090392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Speech by Prince Norodom Sihanouk at a prisoner release ceremony held at the Phocheani Hall in the Royal Palace on 23 February—recorded]

[Text] My respects to His Excellency [H.E.] Ataul Karim and Their Excellencies the foreign ambassadors, the eminent and outstanding representatives of great countries that are close friends of our Cambodia; to H.E. Fresard, representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]; to H.E. the most esteemed and beloved minister [Hor Namhong]; to H.E. Na Nongkhai [Thai representative to SNC chairman] and Madame; to all beloved excellencies and children; to all children who come to pay their homage to me, and especially to Their Excellencies representing the State of Cambodia [SOC] in this auspicious ceremony; and especially to all my children who are in front of their Samdech Euv [Prince Father, meaning Sihanouk] and who today fully recover their freedom as legitimate citizens of our independent Cambodia.

In particular, I would like to express boundless thanks to the SOC Government and Cambodian People's Party [CPP] for correctly implementing all the conditions of the Cambodian peace accord signed in Paris, capital of the French Republic, and on the international stage on 23 October 1991. The CPP and SOC Government have made special efforts to successfully implement the accord by indiscriminately providing human rights and freedom for our compatriots. In this case, the CPP and SOC Government with H.E. Chea Sim, H.E. Hun Sen, and H.E. Heng Samrin as the eminent chairmen and leaders have spared no efforts to assist me in successfully enabling the ICRC and friendly countries with representatives in Cambodia to freely and thoroughly visit prisons and camps where prisoners of war and political detainees are kept and to help me especially in restoring full and permanent freedom to my children, the prisoners. It is a great honor for me to preside over the settlement of this issue of granting freedom to all prisoners of war and political detainees.

I am very happy now that the issue has been significantly resolved in compliance with the Paris 23 October accord, which stipulates that from now on all Cambodians from all parties should be reconciled and we should stop fighting and creating problems that prevent our country from developing. Since the coup d'etat of Mr. Lon Nol and Prince Sirik Matak on 18 March 1970, we have experienced nothing but wars and misery and during the bitter period known to all of you we suffered so much.

Therefore, henceforth we should stop fighting and become reconciled. We are fellow Cambodians; we have the same blood and share the same race; our country is tiny with a small population. If we divide, if we kill one another and have no mercy for each other, it will mean that our country can lose its independence and territorial integrity, let alone national reconstruction. In the time of Samdech Euv, of Sangkum Reas Niyum [Sihanouk's pre-1970 Popular Socialist Party], we enjoyed full independence, full territorial integrity, peace, national unity, and solidarity in building the nation and making it develop rapidly in step with the rest of the world. We were second to none in all fields of national construction. However, since the coup d'etat of Mr. Lon Nol, we retrogressed while other countries progressed. Now we must chase after and catch up with neighboring countries, striving by all means in that endeavor so that we would not be shamed by others and that our people can savor happiness, freedom, development, and prosperity again, thus linking ourselves to the time of Angkor when our ancestors brought glory and fame to our country.

As a matter of fact, the main foundation on which we can bring great successes to our motherland, our Cambodia, is none other than our solidarity. Therefore, it is now necessary for all of us to be united, for all of us to unite henceforth. I would like to warmly praise and thank the SOC Government and CPP for helping me solve this problem, for enabling me to have the fortune of presiding over the release of my children. Since my return, I have been presiding over several releases of my children from the opposition parties.

After the SOC and CPP freed you from detention, my children, you have become full-fledged citizens. Do not be afraid that you will be detained again. You now have all rights and freedom and are reintegrated into the national Cambodian community so we can work with one another and serve, defend, and build the nation together without distinction of parties or factions. We must unite as a single body in our capacity as Khmer, as Cambodians.

The guarantee is in the fact that our country has now adopted a liberal democratic and multi-party regime. This being so, we can keep an eye on each other with a free press. Anyone who makes a mistake will be immediately criticized by the others. Since we keep an eye on one another, we can correct a mistake and help each party, faction, or group to proceed only on the right path. Being human, it is only natural to err sometimes. But with several parties, we can keep an eye on one another and help correct each other. This is a guarantee for you, my children.

There is another guarantee, my children. It is in the persons of H.E. Ataul Karim, the UN representative, later on, H.E. Akashi, the bigger UN representative, as well as all their excellencies the ambassadors that you see here. They also constitute a guarantee. They are here not just for diplomacy, not just to tighten friendly relations between their countries and ours. They are here to help protect human rights and freedom for all of us, including my children here and the general public, so that all of us can enjoy freedom and human rights to the fullest. More particularly, H.E. Fresard, who is the eminent representative of the ICRC working most diligently day and night to help you, my children, and to help all our people to savor human rights, freedom, and justice. I therefore humbly pay my respects to Mr. Fresard and the ICRC for kindly helping me successfully carry out my tasks in my capacity as the SNC chairman in compliance with the 23 October 1991 Paris accord.

My children, today I am fortunate to meet with you. The other days, as the chairman of the committee organizing your release has just recalled, there were ceremonies at several places to set the detainees free and I was present at all of them, including Phnom Penh, Kompong Speu, Kompong Cham, and Kompong Thom. I went virtually everywhere. In some places hundreds of detainees were set free. In other places dozens or a few were released. I helped these children get their freedom and I once again would like to thank the children on the SOC and CPP side for making all of that possible.

I am thus very satisfied to meet with you before you go back to your hometowns. Now that you have your freedom back, what are you going to do? In accordance with the Paris accord, my children, and in compliance with liberal democracy—the new regime, the new system of our independent Cambodia with me as the head of state—you are free to choose whatever you want. You are free to live in Phnom Penh or in the provinces, in Takeo or Kampot. I did not want to make you wait a long time. If we were to wait until I go to Takeo or Kampot before seeing you free, those of you who could have been free now would be unhappy with the waiting. For this reason, I would like to thank the SOC for bringing all of you to meet me in the royal palace itself so that you would not have to wait for your freedom. Now that you are free, where are you going? You have the right to choose. If you choose to live in Phnom Penh, in the territory of the SOC, you should be informed that I am requesting Their Excellencies on the SOC side to provide you with support and protection. So let this request made here be known to all.

As for those who choose to live under the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], the front of Prince Ranariddh, I ask H.E. Hokkri to kindly assist them. Anyone who chooses Prince Ranariddh's side, the FUNCINPEC people are asked to please support them. The SOC Government will also assist them in the form of providing them with transportation to the border between the SOC and the zone of Prince Ranariddh—the FUNCINPEC. As for those on the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], I hope some PDK officials would have been here to help out, but failing that, they can request assistance from FUNCINPEC. Sometimes, when some of you want to go back to your zones, but no representatives from the front of H.E. Son Sann or from the PDK are available, according to my observation, FUNCINPEC is willing to help solve your problems. Therefore, wherever you choose to go there are always some personalities ready to render you assistance.

Talking of the ways to make a living, my children, at present there are 8 million Samdech Euv's children and soon more than 370,000 children who fled to the Kingdom of Thailand during war times will return home. Therefore, there are more than 8 million so-called children of Samdech Euv. Please pardon me. It is not possible for me to find jobs for all of you. Each of you therefore should strive to make a living according to his capability and possibility. In particular, those under the SOC should rely on the SOC Government and CPP. Anyone of you who chooses the SOC should go to the SOC Government and CPP represented here by H.E. Hor Namhong and H.E. Sin Sen. Anyone of you who chooses FUNCINPEC should contact H.E. Hokkri. Others who choose the front of H.E. Son Sann should contact H.E. Sangva de Lopez. Only the PDK has no representative here. Therefore, if anyone wants to go to the PDK, FUNCINPEC can help. How? You will be given safe transportation to your villages. If you wish to work as farmers or traders, you will receive appropriate help for your problems.

I therefore would like to conclude my explanation at this point. Moreover, I have a little gift for each of you to help you in urgent need on your trip so you would not have to buy it in the market. I have some sarongs, some scarves, and some towels for you to use once you leave the royal palace. After that you have to rely on each faction of your choice.

Concerning rights and freedom, you have the rights and freedom to join or not to join any political party, to remain independent citizens without parties, or to be members of this or that party as you wish. And in 1993—in another 13 or 14 months—general elections will be held. So you should cast your vote to elect deputies. When we have a National Assembly again, like in the time of Sangkum Reas Niyum, you should ask your representatives, the deputies, to hold discussion with the government to solve your problems. This is all I have to explain to you. I would like to thank and admire the SOC Government and CPP once again. I still remember the remarks made just now by H.E. the chairman of the committee organizing your release when he said that the other parties should do the same thing as the SOC. I would like to inform you that as far as the other parties are concerned, H.E. Fresard of the ICRC has already gone to all zones of various parties in order to verify whether there are still any detainees. However, the SOC has assured me that some of its people who were captured by the opposition parties and reported to have been released remain so far unaccounted for in the SOC. I would like to tell you that some who had been released by the side of Prince Ranariddh, for example, have stayed with Prince Ranariddh, and H.E. Fresard has met with these people on his trip to check out. However, others, according to the investigation by the SOC, are still missing. Therefore, I would like to rely on each faction of the two present here—namely, H.E. Hokkri and H.E. Sangva de Lopez—to help resolve this problem with the SOC and the ICRC and although it is not present here the PDK is also requested to help resolve such a problem so that no one remains missing. Moreover, we must never violate the free rights of the people. I categorically urge all factions to respect human rights and not to resort to the use of violence. We must use nonviolence rather than violence so that no more life is lost, no more property is damaged, and no more arms or legs of our compatriots are broken. Each faction should comply with my plea.

I would like to end my speech here. May the triple jewels of Buddhism protect Your Excellencies our foreign friends, Your Excellencies my Cambodian children, H.E. and Madame Na Nongkhai, all brothers, sisters, children, and grandchildren, and all my newly released children. May all of you enjoy the sacred blessings of Lord Buddha. My respects go to the international press, radio, and television [previous five words in French] as well and I wish them the five blessings of Lord Buddha. Thank you.

Khieu Samphan Sends Message to UN Chief

BK2402024192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 23 Feb 92

["Text" of 17 February message from Khieu Samphan, member of the Supreme National Council and chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali]

[Text] Your Excellency: The danger of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement to end the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia being turned into one legitimizing Vietnam's continued occupation of Cambodia is becoming clearer. For this reason, on behalf of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], I am duty-bound to inform your excellency, through this letter, of this serious danger.

The situation on the implementation of the agreement is as follows:

1. Despite the close attention of the international community and the Cambodian public on this issue, the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] has not yet ensured that all foreign forces have withdrawn from Cambodia. It is still not clear when UNTAC will arrive.

2. The agreement clearly says that the Supreme National Council [SNC] chaired by His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, is the sole authority in Cambodia. However, the danger is becoming clearer that the SNC will be pushed into a state where it will exist in name only to legitimize and conceal Vietnam's continued occupation of Cambodia.

3. UNTAC's delay in arriving in Cambodia has encouraged Vietnam to intensify military activities to attack the

Cambodian national resistance forces in the current 14th dry season in violation of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement.

4. UNTAC's delay in disarming the four Cambodian factions also allows the Vietnamese aggressor forces to cover themselves and launch anti-Cambodian national resistance forces activities at will.

5. Along with this, flowing into Cambodia are large amounts of humanitarian, economic, social, and cultural aid. This is for rehabilitating and restoring Cambodia and for preserving its historic temples, and so on.

This aid should be given to the SNC, which the agreement says is the sole source of authority in Cambodia. In conformity with the agreement, the SNC should allocate, administer, and control the aid. But, in practice, because the SNC is locked in the above situation, it has no rights, power, or means to administer and control its use.

Therefore, the administration of aid does not conform to the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. In fact, this aid has not reached the suffering Cambodians and has not served its official aim. Instead, a large part has fallen into the hands of Vietnamese aggressors, who continue to occupy Cambodia. They are using it to buy food, fuel, and other supplies for their troops for continued attacks against the national resistance forces.

6. There are forces urgently pushing for the meetings of the SNC, the SNC Secretariat, and the Mixed Military Working Group. These urgent meetings are being called though the UNTAC is not here yet. There are forces pushing for the successive introduction of new legislation, a new essence, and a new administration. In the end, this will lead to a new agreement which will be contrary to the one signed in Paris on 23 October 1991.

In sum, more than three months after the signing of the agreement to end Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia, the central part and essence of this agreement has not been implemented. Moreover, the danger has arisen it will be deflected into one that legitimizes Vietnam's continued occupation of Cambodia.

Taking all this into account, on behalf of the PDK, I appeal to national and international opinion to unite and thwart the danger of this agreement being changed into one legitimizing Vietnam's continued occupation in Cambodia. I also appeal to all parties, signatories of the 23 October 1991 agreement, to revert to adhering to the essence and spirit of the agreement.

Along with this, it is necessary to jointly push for UNTAC's deployment in Cambodia without further delay, in order to start implementing the agreement, particularly its essence, and central points, which include:

1. Supervision of the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Cambodia and a guarantee that these forces do not return to Cambodia; and

2. Supervision of the disarming of all four Cambodian parties' armed forces.

On this occasion, the PDK would like to reaffirm its stand on abiding by the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. As long as UNTAC has not arrived to work together with the SNC chaired by HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk to settle those two core issues and create a neutral political atmosphere in Cambodia, all other issues will remain unresolved.

The solution of other problems apart from these two core issues is akin to partially solving minor problems. This runs counter to the Paris agreement on Cambodia which mandates the comprehensive settlement of the Cambodian problem.

Please, your excellency, accept my highest regards.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 17 February 1992
[Signed] Khieu Samphan, SNC member and PDK chairman

PDK Figures Hold Talks With UNAMIC Leaders

General Nuon Buno Sends Message

BK2302034792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] On 20 February, General Nuon Buno sent a message to General Loridon, chief of the mixed military group of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC], replying to accusations made by General Loridon against the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK]. The following is the essence of the message.

1. On the deployment of the four Cambodian parties' Army officiers at UNAMIC headquarters:

On this issue, General Nuon Buno specified that we welcome the deployment of the four Cambodian parties' Army officers. However, to increase the efficiency of the control, we propose that the deployment be carried out simultaneously everywhere, at the 16 points suggested by His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sen, commander in chief of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK], in his messages dated 28 December 1991 and 28 January 1992.

We have noted that UNAMIC posts are located only in western Cambodia while there are none in eastern Cambodia. Therefore, we propose that UNAMIC reconsider this issue.

2. The control of troop cantonment areas:

As victims of a war of aggression, we demand that the Paris agreement be correctly and meticulously implemented to end the war of aggression and suffering of our Cambodian people. However, there is still fighting and attacks to take over our liberated zones and successive infiltrations for purposes of spying in our areas, such as on the Kompong Thom and Siem Reap battlefields and the battlefield north of Phnom Penh.

For this reason, we are compelled to put off the control of the troop cantonment areas until the arrival of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC]. We would like to reaffirm that we strictly abide by the Paris agreement, Article 3, Annex 2, which says that the cantonment areas should be prepared and ready one week at the most before the second phase goes into effect.

3. Freedom of movement of UNAMIC personnel:

This issue has been resolved between H.E. Son Sen, commander in chief of the NADK, and General Loridon on 10 January 1992 in Pailin, concerning issues such as helicopter flights and movements across areas bordering Thailand. However, based on Articles 34 and 36 of the document dealing with the rights and immunity of UNAMIC, we have observed that the latter has many times violated this document. For example, recently UNAMIC brought two Cambodians to Pailin without telling us these persons' background despite our repeated requests.

4. Opening of the mine education school:

On this issue, we have fully cooperated already; whatever is to be done has been made ready for this school to function. Apart from this, we have also provided samples of mines to UNAMIC as requested. We are looking for accommodation for specialists who are coming to give instruction on mines. However, according to information we have received in Pailin, these specialists will not be arriving until mid-March 1992.

5. Demining:

We would like to recall that we agree with the demining along National Route 5 in order to transport refugees and prepare centers and accommodation for refugees. As for other places, we are of the opinion that demining should wait until the arrival of UNTAC to start clearing mines because currently fighting is still going on. In the immediate future, we should implement Resolution 228 of the UN Security Council.

6. Marking minefields:

On this issue, we hold that this should be done around villages first to avoid danger to the lives of the people who need to move around to earn their living and to avoid losses of animals of the people in the villages. As for other places, we propose that this should be done later and simultaneously by the four parties.

7. On the plan to prepare maps for the Mekong Committee:

We warmly support the plan to develop the Mekong River. However, because foreign forces continue to attack us, we cannot allow flights to take pictures for preparing maps for the project to develop the Mekong River. This project can be carried out only when there is peace and security in Cambodia and after all foreign troops are withdrawn from the country under UN supervision and after the disarming of all four Cambodian parties' forces.

[Dated] 20 February 1992

[Signed] Nuon Buno.

Khieu Samphan Consults With UNAMIC Head

BK2302013492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] On 21 February in Phnom Penh, His Excellency [H.E.] Khieu Samphan, member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], held talks with H.E. Ataul Karim, chief of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC].

During the talks, H.E. Khieu Samphan informed H.E. Ataul Karim that the PDK, like the entire Cambodian people—who are the victims of act of aggression—very much want the quick implementation of the Paris agreement. The PDK has made efforts to cooperate with the United Nations and provided important information to the latter hoping that the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] would be quickly deployed in Cambodia. However, to this day, it is not here yet; and it is not known when it will come. Vietnam's aggressor forces therefore continue to carry out activities to attack the resistance forces at will.

It is this situation that has led to obstacles in the cooperation between UNAMIC and ourselves. H.E. Khieu Samphan further informed H.E. Ataul Karim that the implementation of the Paris agreement requires the solution of two key issues: first, the control of the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Cambodia; and second, the control of the disarming of all four Cambodian parties' troops. Only when these two issues are solved can there be a neutral political atmosphere in Cambodia.

H.E. Khieu Samphan asked H.E. Ataul Karim to convey the request that H.E. Akashi, special representative of the UN Secretary General in Cambodia, push for the quick dispatch of UN peacekeeping force to Cambodia, with a first contingent, to be followed by the second, third, fourth contingents, and so on, until there is a sufficient number, rather than wait for the dispatch of the entire force.

The talks were held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Prince Ranariddh Discusses Current Situation

BK2202102692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Message by Prince Norodom Ranariddh to Buddhist monks and the Cambodian people—dated 15 February; recorded]

[Text] I, Norodom Ranariddh—the son of His Royal Highness [H.R.H.] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, supreme commander of the National Army of Independent Cambodia; secretary general of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC], and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia—pay my respects to all Buddhist monks and highest salutations to all beloved grandmas, grandpas, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters, compatriots, students, and Cambodian intellectuals.

Today, I am pleased to have the great honor of making the following message to the beloved compatriots to account for some issues that have been raised in the national and international milieus lately:

1. Why has the FUNCINPEC been allied with the State of Cambodia [SOC] side? On this issue, I ask to be allowed to inform the beloved compatriots that our FUNCINPEC is a movement that has been created and led under the lofty leadership of His Royal Highness [H.R.H.] Prince Norodom Sihanouk—the revered and sacred father of national reunification—after our beloved motherland came under foreign enemies' aggression over the past more than 10 years. Our movement's political stance, as highlighted by its appellation, is for national reunification to restore independence, neutrality, and peace and promote cooperation in the interest of our motherland. In this context, our movement has opened its door wide to patriotic Cambodians from all political persuasions. To all appearances, we participated in the establishment of a tripartite coalition government to continue military and political struggle for a correct and just cause, leading up to achieving the historic victory: the Cambodian peace accord signed in Paris on 23 October 1991.

Respected and beloved compatriots: After having a thorough discussion and study with leading members, FUNCINPEC, with me as the secretary general, has decided to expand and reinforce its political stance in order to achieve national reconciliation and reunification under the chairmanship of the respected and sacred Samdech Euv [prince father] on the basis of our movement's fine policy and according to the significance of the Paris accord. This is aimed at creating an atmosphere of national compromise and reconciliation to effectively smooth out and enhance to the maximum the implementation of the accord. We are extremely proud to strive with courage to serve as a precedent for establishing the bilateral alliance with the SOC side in consideration of our Cambodian nation's supreme interest. Our alliance with the SOC side does not mean that we merge into a unique party, meaning into the Cambodian People's Party [CPP]. For the nation's supreme interests, we only cooperate:

A. To create a healthy atmosphere of national compromise to enhance the execution of the peace accord and cease-fire agreement; and

B. To serve the royal crusade of Samdech Euv, the father of national reunification and construction, to rebuild the Cambodian nation, which has been victimized and devastated for years.

We accept nothing, except for the nation's supreme interest. The alliance does not mean that we have abandoned our identity. Our front, our party continue to exist and have autonomy, independence, and sovereignty as always. In elections to be organized and supervised by the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], our party will run as a legitimate party in the elections to contest with other parties, including the CPP.

2. Is Prince Chakkrapong's joining the CPP a political issue? Concerning this issue, I, Norodom Ranariddh, wish to solemnly declare again that Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, a son of the sacred Samdech Euv and a former FUNCINPEC member, has joined the CPP of his own free will. Therefore, he is no longer a FUNCINPEC member. His association with the CPP was neither urged by nor had any connection with the revered and sacred Samdech Euv. Neither was the association related in any way with the FUNCINPEC movement. Prince Chakkrapong's partnership is a purely personal matter. In future elections, any vote for Prince Chakkrapong means voting for the CPP.

Respected compatriots, grandmas, grandpas, uncles, and aunts: FUNCINPEC is a political party that has always maintained a stance of respecting human rights and liberal democratic freedom. Therefore, we absolutely respect the Cambodian people's freedom and will to choose a political party—everyone is free to join or establish whatever political party he or she wishes.

3. Why cannot I, Norodom Ranariddh, be permanently present in Phnom Penh? Dear compatriots: I, as a Cambodian, always think of the country where I was born. I have not only wanted to live in the motherland, but also to preserve my pride as all of you. I have struggled, together with all other compatriots, to surmount all manner of difficulties and obstacles over the past several years to serve and follow Samdech Euv—Prince Norodom Sihanouk, my revered and sacred father—in his historic crusade and in accordance with his policy in order to liberate the country and nation from being a foreign satellite and regaining independence, sovereignty, and peace for the people so we can live together with dignity in a great national family on our homeland.

Our goal is almost reached. At the moment, I particularly want to be with you. However, the current situation does not allow me to be present permanently in Phnom Penh because first, Phnom Penh—which is the headquarters of the Cambodian SNC—is not a neutral zone; and second, Phnom Penh is an insecure zone full of danger, particularly for members of the SNC who used to represent the tripartite resistance movement. This insecurity is the most important factor for the implementation of the Cambodian peace agreement. It is a factor which prevents national reconciliation and the quick and smooth implementation of the peace agreement in Cambodia. Third, this insecurity cannot provide a possibility for implementing liberal democracy in Cambodia the way all Cambodian parties have wanted and already agreed to. Fourth, I am convinced that if I stay permanently in Phnom Penh, citizens, civil servants, civilian and military workers, pupils, students, intellectuals, compatriots, and in particular many nationalists in FUNCINPEC ranks who are carrying out tasks nationwide, will come forward and visit me to inform themselves about the future of Cambodia, our motherland. In such a zone, which is not neutral and insecure, this further worries me about the security of the above people and compatriots.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform nationalists in our FUNCINPEC ranks, who are are carrying out tasks in the country, that I am very moved and happy that you want to visit me in the capital and in the provinces. I would like to convey most profound admiration and thanks and along with this, I also want to say that I would very much like to meet with you, too. I ask all compatriot nationalists to understand me because I cannot receive you due to the unfavorable situation. However, I would like to solemnly declare that as one of the leaders, I shall not consider my own security. The most important is your own security, all of you nationalists. Please be patient for the time being. According to Akashi, special representative of His Excellency UN Secretary General, who recently made the promise, in the next four or five weeks, the United Nations will start sending UNTAC personnel to our country who will control and take over five ministries, including the Interior Ministry and the police.

At that time, I believe that the capital and various provinces would become neutral zones with genuine security. And this would enable me to meet beloved and missed compatriots to talk and exchange views on ways to organize the future of our revered country and nation. We would then have the opportunity to practice liberal democracy to solve problems for the development of our country. We would find measures to get peace and stability for our country and for us to live with solidarity within our great Cambodian national family with the prince father, His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, revered and outstanding leader, father of national reconciliation, father of national independence, and father of Cambodia's national construction.

On another important point, namely FUNCINPEC's reaction toward the movement opposing the presence of foreign troops in Cambodia, I would like to again specify that FUNCINPEC and the National Army of Independent Cambodia [NAIC]—which have persistently struggled for many years and have sacrificed thousands of nationalists—have clear ideals for genuine independence and neutrality and end of the civilian and military presence of Vietnam in our Cambodia to restore peace to the Cambodian people.

Therefore, it is the sacred duty and obligation of all Cambodians to carry on the political struggle to end Vietnam's presence in our Cambodia. The framework document and the Paris agreement clearly say that UNTAC is responsible for the control of foreign troops in Cambodia, namely Vietnamese troops. Thus, our FUNCINPEC and the NAIC will provide unequivocal and firm support to protest and express opinions against the presence of disguised or undisguised Vietnamese troops.

Beloved compatriots: I am convinced and firmly hope that the clergy and compatriots have clearly understood the significance of the above explanation. And when there is sufficient UNTAC presence in Cambodia, I also trust that I will receive full cooperation from all compatriots to facilitate the implementation of the peace agreement in accordance with the Paris accord in order to promote free elections under UN supervision, which in turn would lead to genuine security and peace for our Cambodian people and nation.

To end my message, I would like to pray that the Buddhist triple jewel, the power of the angels guarding the throne, and the souls of all previous Cambodian kings help look after the clergy and compatriots. May you enjoy peace and prosperity and achieve victory in the great mission to build our beloved nation and motherland.

Done in Oddar Meanchey, Cambodia, on 15 February 1992.

I, Norodom Ranariddh.

Chea Sim Pledges To Carry on Sihanouk Policy

BK2302054792 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0407 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 23 Feb (SPK)—Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, said he is faithful to the policy of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council.

At a ceremony to inaugurate two new school buildings on 20 February in Ponhea Krek District, Kompong Cham Province, Chea Sim said he carries on the work of the Sangkum Reas Niyum (Popular Socialist Community) [name of Sihanouk's former political party] advocated by Prince Norodom Sihanouk before 1970.

Chairman Chea Sim called on the population to elect Prince Norodom Sihanouk as head of state in the coming elections. He also talked about the capability of the CPP to maintain security and prevent the return of the Pol Pot regime for 13 years.

Indonesia

Alatas Discusses Actions During Dili Incident

BK2102143192 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1014 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Washington, Feb 21 (OANA-ANTARA)—Anti-Indonesian campaigns, especially on things concerning the East Timor issue, will not in any way help the East Timor people, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said during a meeting with the press here Friday.

Campaigns which are merely based on political considerations and neglect the humanity aspect will only prolong the sufferings of the East Timor people, the minister said.

Alatas was in the U.S. as a part of his diplomatic offensive to boost Indonesia's image following the November 12, 1991 incident in East Timor in which the National Investigation Commission (KPN) said around 50 were killed and 91 injured.

East Timor, formerly a colony of Portugal for over 400 years, is now Indonesia's 27th province after its people in 1976 decided to integrate with Indonesia.

According to Alatas, the Indonesian Government regretted it very much that provocation about Indonesia was still continued by a government (Portugal, ed.), a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), some member of the press and remnants of the FRETILIN [Revolutionary Movement for an Independent East Timor] trouble makers group in East Timor.

He said the description about the incident was out of proportion especially the one comparing it with the Tiananmen Square incident in the People's Republic of China (PRC) several years ago.

"There was no way that the demonstration carried out on the date was peaceful," he said while also reminding that the Tiananmen Square incident was a reflection of the government's policy while the one in East Timor absolutely was not.

The November 12 incident was not the policy of the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI), either, Alatas said.

If one should make any comparison, he or she actually must refer to the Kent State affairs in the United States several years ago when the National Guard opened fire on demonstrators, he said adding that the other more suitable comparisons would be the bloody Sunday affairs in Northern Ireland or similar incident in Venezuela when the security officers "were forced" to open fire.

"However, these comparisons do not mean that I intend to seek for a justification over what has happened in East Timor, because the Indonesian Government has also expressed its regret over the incident," the minister said.

Alatas dismissed foreign reports as untrue when they said that the procession from the Motael Church in Dili to the Santa Cruz cemetery went on peacefully..

"From the beginning, the procession has been led by an agitator which eventually led to the incident," he said.

Allan Nairn, a newsman for the NEW YORKER, who at the time of the demonstration was in Dili admitted that a number of youths at the time shouted political slogans.

Alatas said if Nairn really wanted to carry out his tasks as a newsman, he should not have entered Dili by using a tourist visa.

Such an attitude obviously was unethical, Alatas said, to which Nairn said in the U.S. it was not customary to ask for a journalist visa when one wished to carry out a journalistic tasks in other countries.

"After all, at the Dili Airport I also told the officials there that I was a journalist," Nairn said.

Answering a question, Alatas said that it was the prerogative rights of a country to refuse the entry of foreigners due to various considerations.

"The U.S. itself has a long list of people who are not allowed to enter its territory," he said.

About the human rights protection, he said Indonesia was not 100 percent good at this, but neither was other countries, including the U.S. which was known for its police brutality, tortures and violences.

Answering a question from a Portuguese journalist about the possibility of holding an Indonesia-Portugal discussion again on East Timor, Alatas said, "I've learned reports that the Portuguese foreign minister has sent a letter to the U.N. chief about this."

"However, since the U.N. secretary general himself has not told me anything, I cannot give any reaction or pretend that I have understood the content of the letter," he said.

He further said that Indonesia would always be ready to hold discussion with Portugal under the supervision of the U.N. secretary general.

Records at the U.N. showed that since the 1983 talks, Indonesia had always been willing to cooperate and agree to whatever suggestions of the U.N. secretary general.

It was Portugal who has never been serious in finding a comprehensive solution to the East Timor issues, Alatas said.

Ghali Appreciates Handling of Dili Incident

BK2402095892 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0807 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] New York, Feb 24 (OANA-ANTARA)—United Nations Secretary General Butrus Ghali rated the steps taken by the Indonesian Government in dealing with the November 12 Dili incident and the recent visit of his personal envoy Amos Wako to Indonesia as more or less successful to reduce pressures from various sides against him.

Ghali's judgment was disclosed to Foreign Minister Ali Alatas who called on him here over the weekend to clarify to his host all the measures which have been and are being taken by the Indonesian Government in response to the National Investigation Commission (KNP) report on the Dili tragedy.

Alatas told the UN secretary general that similar clarifications had been given by him to government leaders and legislative councils of several countries. The general impression gained by the foreign minister from the various authorities he had met was the KPN report was deemed sufficiently comprehensive.

Ghali told Alatas that since the incident, he underwent pressures from various sides urging the world body to do something and be involved in settling the problem.

Speaking to ANTARA here before continuing his journey to Canada Sunday Alatas quoted Ghali as having shared the view that what had been done by the Indonesian Government and the permit given to Wako to see things in East Timor for himself have much relieved pressures on the secretary general.

Ghali who still has to study Wako's Dili report has promised Alatas to convey to the Indonesian Government his further view on the matter in due time. The UN authority said he has just received Wako's preliminary report and he hoped to see Wako's complete report during his Geneva trip within these days.

While here Foreign Minister Alatas has also had a meeting with Yugoslavia's UN Permanent Representative Darko Silovic to discuss the latter's cooperation with Indonesia's permanent envoy to the world body concerning the realization of various aspects of the Non-Aligned Movement's [NAM] leadership duties delegated to Indonesia.

One of them, according to Alatas, is the preparation for the NAM's coordination bureau ministerial level meeting to be held in Bali in May, when some 30 foreign ministers of the 102 NAM nations will be present to discuss problems to be faced by the NAM forthcoming summit in Jakarta.

PRC Minister Meets Suharto; Views Oil Prices

BK2402081792 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] President Suharto received Wang Tao, the People's Republic of China Minister of Petroleum Industry at Bina Graha Presidential Office in Jakarta today. He was accompanied by Mining and Energy Minister Ginandjar Kartasasmita.

Following the meeting, Wan Tao told newsmen that PRC will participate in efforts to stabilize the price of oil at $21 per barrel, the price that Indonesia wanted. He said PRC produces up to 2.8 million barrels of oil per day mostly for domestic consumption. PRC only exports about 460,000 barrels per day to Japan, Singapore, and the United States. Meanwhile, it imports about 250,000 barrels from Indonesia and the Middle East.

Asked about the possibility of the PRC becoming an OPEC member, Minister Wang Tao said this is not important to the PRC. The main thing for the PRC is to make efforts to stabilize the oil price so that it remains at $21 per barrel, he added.

The current world oil price is fluctuating between $17 and $18 per barrel.

Minister Wang Tao is on a two-day visit to Indonesia. He is expected to sign a memorandum of understanding on cooperation on oil and gas with Indonesia.

PRC Radio, Film, TV Minister Arrives for Visit

BK2302152092 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Ai Zhisheng, PRC minister for radio, film, and television, arrived in Jakarta this evening for a six-day visit to Indonesia. While in Indonesia, Minister Ai Zhisheng will pay a courtesy call on President Suharto, sign an information cooperation accord with Information Minister Harmoko, and visit Bandung, Yogyakarta, and Bali.

In a press briefing at Sukarno-Hatta Airport this evening, the Chinese minister for radio, film, and television said that his visit to Indonesia was to reciprocate a visit by Information Minister Harmoko to China last year. According to Ai Zhisheng, China and Indonesia have established good cooperation in the field of information since the reestablishment of their diplomatic relations.

Laos

Communique Issued on Premier's Visit to Thailand

BK2202115792 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 22 Feb 92

["Joint communique between the Lao People's Democratic Republic, LPDR, and the Kingdom of Thailand"—dated 19 February 1992]

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency [H.E.] Anan Panyarachun, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, H.E. Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and an entourage paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Thailand from 18 to 21 February 1992.

During his visit to the Kingdom of Thailand, H.E. Khamtai Siphandon was granted an audience by his majesty the king at the Phuphing Ratchaniwet Palace. During the audience, H.E. Khamtai Siphandon conveyed the respects of H.E. LPDR President Kaysone Phomvihan and his wife to their majesties the king and queen and his appreciation for the excellent welcome and care extended to the president by their majesties the king and queen during his official visit to Thailand from 6 to 11 January 1992.

H.E. LPDR Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon and his entourage visited some important places and agricultural centers in Bangkok and Saraburi, Sakon Nakhon, and Khon Kaen Provinces. H.E. Khamtai Siphandon and his party were warmly and amicably welcomed by Thai officials and people at all places they visited.

LPDR Prime Minister Siphandon and his delegation and Thai Prime Minister Panyarachun and his delegation held talks and consultations amid an atmosphere of mutual good understanding and excellent brotherly friendship.

At the talks, the Lao side was composed of Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister; Phao Bounnaphon, minister of foreign economic relations; Somsavat Lengsavat, minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office; Thongloun Sisoulit, deputy foreign affairs minister; Bounkeut Sangsomsak, LPDR ambassador to Thailand; Souphanthaheuangsi Sisaleumsak, director of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry; Somchan Thavikham, director attached to the Prime Minister's Office; Donsom Volakit, acting director of the Second Department of the Foreign Ministry; and Bouason Boutthavan, secretary of the prime minister.

The Thai side was composed of Asa Sarasin, foreign minister; General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, interior minister; Suthi Singsane, finance minister; Amaret Sila-on, commerce minister; Michai Wirawaithaya, minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office; M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi, minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office; Gen. Suchinda Khraprayun, Armed Forces supreme commander and Army commander in chief; Wiraphong Ramangkun, deputy finance minister; Sathaphon Kawitanon, secretary of the prime minister; Witthaya Wetchachiwa, permanent undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry; and Nikhom Tantemsap, Thai ambassador to the LPDR.

At the talks, the two prime ministers exchanged extensive views on the international situation both at the world and regional levels. The two sides expressed views that the current world situation, which is changing tremendously, has created opportunities for many countries to genuinely develop their economies and has led to meetings of various sides to settle international problems through political means and on the basis of the principle of peaceful coexistence. The two prime ministers expressed appreciation on the strong aspirations by the countries in Southeast Asia in searching for peace and friendship on the basis of the principle of respecting each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and respecting each other's legitimate rights and interests.

On this occasion, the Thai prime minister was pleased with the LPDR's desire to become a member of the Treaty of Peace and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. The two sides were of the view that the signing of the peace agreements on Cambodia and the cooperation among the countries in the region have served to encourage the Cambodian people to exercise the rights of self-determination and to implement the process of national reconciliation through the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia. The two sides unanimously agreed that in order to allow the peace process to progress to the holding of the free and just elections in Cambodia, the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia must carry out its duties in Cambodia as soon as possible.

The two prime ministers exchanged views on bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction to see that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the LPDR and the Kingdom of Thailand have been developed in many fields. This is displayed in the exchange of visits by high-level governmental and military delegations as well as in the economic, trade, and technical exchanges and the exchange of visits by the peoples of the two countries, especially following the visit to the LPDR in March 1990 by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon and the official visit to Thailand by H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan and his wife as guests of His Majesty the King from 6 to 11 January 1992. The two prime ministers were extremely pleased to see that the spiritual relationship between the two countries has led to the signing by the two prime ministers of the Treaty of Peace and Cooperation between the LPDR and the Kingdom of Thailand to become the foundation for maintaining the lasting relations between the governments and peoples of the two countries.

As for the progress of the bilateral Lao-Thai relations, the prime ministers of both sides expressed satisfaction with the work of the Lao-Thai Joint Cooperation Commissions, the Lao-Thai General Border Peacekeeping Coordination Committees, and the Lao-Thai Joint Border Committees which have promoted mutual cooperation in preventing and resolving problems through peaceful means on the basis of justice and mutual benefits.

As for the economic and technical cooperation for 1992, Thailand is pleased to provide 240 scholarships for short-term training courses and study tours and 30 scholarships for long-term study at the bachelor's and master's degrees levels to Lao authorities and students. Thailand is also pleased to assist Laotians by providing material equipment for (?medical) study and instruction from the budget left over from the scholarships on the training and study tour programs for 1992.

The two sides agreed in principle to allow the national banks and other organizations concerned to meet and consult with each other in order to find ways to regulate the Lao-Thai border trading, especially those trading activities not conducted through the banking system.

Because Laos is a neighboring country sharing a common border with Thailand but has no access to the sea, Thailand has agreed to reduce the import duties to appropriate rates for four categories of processed timber from Laos. This will benefit the construction industry in Thailand. The import volume of these products will be determined later.

The two prime ministers expressed elation at the success of the signing of an agreement on tourism cooperation between the Tourism Authority of the LPDR and the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

The two prime ministers unanimously agreed with the benefits which will be received by Laos and Thailand from their cooperation in the development of hydroelectric resources which will benefit the national development in the two countries. Thailand is pleased to purchase electricity from Laos' projects at reasonable prices. In addition, in certain appropriate cases, it is appropriate to conduct a study for outlining joint development projects with each other. The two sides unanimously agreed that the Thai side will render cooperation to Laos in installing the electricity distribution centers from Thailand into Laos at three points between [Thailand's] Chiang Khong and [Laos'] Houai Sai, Bungkan and Paksan, and That Phanom and Se Bangfai by authorizing the agencies concerned from the two sides to agree on the expenses and working procedures in the future. As for the Pakseng-(?Sam Saphan) point, a detailed study will be conducted later.

The two sides agreed to exchange information on the suppression of narcotics and [word indistinct] and that it is beneficial to find ways to create the tripartite cooperation among Laos, Thailand, and Myanmar.

The two prime ministers are very pleased to see that the official visit to the Kingdom of Thailand by H.E. LPDR Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon and the party has received a glorious success, thereby constituing a historical step for the enhancement and strengthening of the relations of friendship, cooperation, mutual good understanding, and mutual trust of brotherliness between the governments and peoples of Laos and Thailand.

H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon thanked the Thai Government and people for giving him a warm and honorable welcome throughout the visit.

Prepared in Lao and Thai in two copies with equal validity.

Made in Bangkok on 19 February 1992.

[Signed] Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister, for the LPDR Government

[Signed] Anan Panyarachun, prime minister, for the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand.

SPA Achievements in 1991 Hailed at Meeting

BK2302091892 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] At the meeting hall of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] yesterday, a meeting was held to review overall achievements in drafting the Constitution and other laws of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] by the office of the second SPA.

Attending the meeting were Nouhak Phoumsavan, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee Political Bureau, chairman of the SPA, and chairman of the Committee for Drafting the Constitution and Laws of the LPDR; Phoumi Vongvichit, adviser to the party Central Committee and the state and vice chairman of the Committee for Drafting the Constitution and Laws of the LPDR; Thongsing Thammavong, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the SPA; members of the SPA Standing Committee; members of the Committee for Drafting the Constitution and Laws; and more than 70 cadres and state employees of the SPA, the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme People's Court, and the People's Judiciary Institute.

Chaleun Yiapaoheu, member of the LPRP Central Committee and member of the SPA Standing Committee, read an overall report on the strong and weak achievements accomplished by cadres and state employees of the SPA as well as cadres attached to the Committee for Drafting the Constitution and Laws since the establishment of the second SPA on 26 March 1989. On the basis of these achievements, meritorious awards of various categories were granted to some outstanding persons at the meeting, as follows:

Eleven persons were awarded with the First Class Labor Order; 13 with the Second Class Labor Order; seven with the Third Class Labor Order; 10 with the Labor Order; 11 with the government's meritorious certificates; and 10 with the SPA Standing Committee's meritorious certificates.

Chaleun Yiapaoheu subsequently proposed some of the following urgent and immediate recommendations to be adopted by the meeting, aimed at fulfilling the responsibilities, roles, and duties of the second SPA: to make all-round preparations to hold the the elections to the third National Assembly in late 1992; to make preparations to convene the eighth plenary session of the second SPA in order to debate the 1992 state budget in late

March this year; to continue the implementation of the Constitution and other laws; to encourage the government to urgently adopt decrees on government land, houses, and businesses; and to follow up and consolidate the activities of the People's Judiciary Institute with a view to enforcing the Constitution and other laws in a just manner.

At the meeting, Nouhak Phoumsavan expressed his appreciation of and acclamation on the achievements gained by the SPA staff.

Savannakhet Governor Meets SRV Counterpart

BK2102040392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] A meeting between the governor of Savannakhet Province and his counterpart from the SRV's Quang Tri Province was recently held in Savannakhet Province to discuss cooperation between the two localities. At the meeting, the two sides highly valued the outcome of their mutual cooperation and assistance in 1991 and drew lessons from such endeavors. They also agreed to modify and resolve certain remaining problems and discussed the direction of cooperation plans for 1992 on the basis of the implementation of the mechanisms of renovation in each country, aimed at ensuring solidarity, friendship, and mutual benefits.

Philippines

Senator Proposes Purchase of Subic Dry Docks

HK2402064792 Quezon City DWDD Defense Department Radio in Tagalog 0400 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] The Philippine Navy is training its personnel in the use of equipment being left behind by the Americans at Subic Naval Base in Olongapo City. Captain Domingo Salisit, chief of the Naval Construction Brigade, said that one week of on-the-job training is under way for his men to enable them to handle the modern equipment which the Americans may leave behind. Salisit said Captain John (Lehman), chief of the Subic Naval Base Public Works Center, has agreed to allow the training of several Filipino engineers and technicians in the use of some of the equipment. Salisit said it is important for the Filipinos to know how to use the U.S. equipment in the long-term.

The Philippine Navy has been deploying additional forces at Subic during the gradual American withdrawal.

Meanwhile, Malacanang has ignored reports that toxic radioactive substances are being dumped by the Americans at Subic.

Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon has blamed the 12 antibases senators for the Americans' decision to withdraw their three dry docks from Subic. Some 40,000 workers are said to have lost their jobs with the removal of the first dry dock last Saturday. Secretary Drilon said that in view of this, it will be impossible to conduct ship repairs at Subic without the dry docks.

In a related report, Senator Wigberto Tanada has proposed that the Philippines offer to buy the two remaining dry docks. He said payment for these should be taken from Washington's compensation shortfall under the terms of the Republic of the Philippines-U.S. military bases agreement. He said thousands of Filipinos will not lose their jobs if the government purchases the dry docks. Tanada emphasized that the U.S. owes up to $92 million for their use of the bases in the Philippines. He added that he has asked Secretary Alejandro Melchor to make a formal offer to the U.S. Government before the remaining dry docks are removed.

Soldiers Said Dumping Toxic Chemicals

HK2202033192 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Toxic chemicals are being dumped by soldiers [nationality unspecified] in charge of maintaining Subic Naval Base in Olongapo City and Clark Air Base in Angeles City. This was announced by Senator Heherson Sonny Alvarez. He said that he has asked President Aquino to form a group, consisting of representatives from the private sector and environmentalist groups, to investigate this matter.

Alvarez said that the toxic chemicals were used to manufacture nuclear weapons and are now being dumped into the environment. The senator further explained that the United States would not need a large amount of funds to clean up the military bases if they had not used toxic chemicals, which can destroy the environment.

Reportage on Massacre at Surigao del Sur

Peace Proposal Turned Down

HK2302055892 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Networkin Tagalog 0700 GMT 22 Feb 92

[By Rowena Papasin—italicized passages in English]

[Text] Malacanang has rejected a proposal for a cease-fire which aims to avoid the possibility of the Surigao del Sur massacre escalating into a full-scale total war.

The cease-fire was proposed by Senator Wigberto Tanada. He emphasized that the Armed Forces should abandon its total war policy and concentrate on finding ways to achieve peace.

Meanwhile, Press Secretary Horacio Paredes stressed that the government is not willing to enter into any negotiations at the moment, especially when such talks may be used by some politicians to further their own interests.

He also added that the government would rather have peace talks on the local level where the warring factions themselves conduct the negotiations, rather than on a national level where politicians may meddle in the talks. This alternative was, however, rejected by the left.

The press secretary also noted that it is getting more difficult to hold talks with the left now, especially when they have resorted to using inhuman methods against government troops. He said that it would be difficult to conduct talks in a civilized manner when one of the parties involved has no hesitation in using *savage means* to achieve their objectives.

Furthermore, Paredes questioned whether the communists are still fighting for equality in society.

[Begin Paredes recording] *How do we negotiate with people as terrible as this, especially when you think of [word indistinct]. This is worse than anything that we can see.*

I could hardly....[Paredes changes thought] How do you talk to these [word indistinct] people who will go that far—evil people like this. These things are only done by devils. These thing are really abominable. It's no longer a joke.

So what is their role now? *Are they still looking for an egalitarian government? Are they still looking for equality among Filipinos? Are they still considering that Filipinos should work together? What? It seems that its just too savage to consider.*

How do you talk peace with mad men? It's impossible when you talk peace with [word indistinct] or with somebody like that.

It's really improbable. *The concept of negotiation means that there is some kind of civilized approach to one another.* However, if they are just going to devour you.... Can you conduct peace-talks with mad dogs? [end recording]

NDF Challenges Military

HK2402090192 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] The National Democratic Front [NDF] challenged the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] today to file a complaint with the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] in relation to the ambush of government soldiers in Marihatag, Surigao del Sur. This was contained in a statement issued by the NDF in response to Struggle of Filipino Democrats senatorial candidate Blas Ople's statement. According to Frank Fernandez, NDF spokesman and secretary general, the truth behind the ambush will eventually come to light. Fernandez said that even the leader of the 23d Infantry Battalion, Major Petrocino Alcantara, has admitted that the New People's Army [NPA] rebels performed first aid after the ambush. He said it is sad the AFP has made it appear that the NPA rebels have always been the evil ones during encounters in order to cover up their claim of having crushed the country's insurgency. According to the NDF, it would be for the better if the AFP elevated the case to the ICRC, so that the country's total war policy against unarmed rural citizens would be brought to light and scrutinized.

Communists To Probe Atrocities

HK2402044092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0354 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Manila, Feb 24 (AFP)—The Philippine communist rebel leadership Monday vowed to investigate charges that teenaged guerrillas savagely killed and mutilated government troops who survived a recent insurgent attack.

The National Democratic Front (NDF), an umbrella rebel organization which includes the New People's Army (NPA), said it will conduct an investigation of the February 15 ambush in the southern province of Surigao del Sur.

Thirty-eight government troops were killed, another 21 soldiers were wounded and 10 of the attackers died, according to army reports.

It was the biggest communist victory in a single ambush under President Corazon Aquino's government, but the triumph was marred by reports that youthful NPA members slaughtered and mutilated military survivors.

Aquino said over the weekend that the NPA had "broken all the civilized rules of warfare by using children as combatants and displaying more savagery than any alien force ever did against Filipinos."

The NDF said in statement sent to news agencies Monday that "strident voices" were making the charges, stressing the NPA has a "code of conduct that covers the humane treatment of prisoners of war and wounded enemy soldiers."

But it added that "in order to clarify what transpired during and after the ambush, the NDF will conduct an investigation of its own regarding the matter."

It reiterated its call for the government and the rebels to sign an "agreement for the respect of human rights of civilians and combatants and humanitarian norms of war."

The NDF called on the military to show evidence "to substantiate its charges of NPA savagery," adding that signs of mutilation could have resulted from high-powered weapons used by the rebels, which the army said including mortars.

"The fact that there were at least 17 survivors bespeaks of a restraint that is not in character with a kill-crazy outfit depicted by the governmnent," the NDF statement said.

Aquino's spokesman, Press Secretary Horacio Paredes, said the NDF statement "means that possibly there are some adventurers in their command, that they cannot control completely."

"Either that or they are trying to backtrack from what they have done," he said, adding that the government would welcome any NDF findings.

The NPA's old image as a disciplined, idealistic fighting force had earlier been tarnished by an internal purge that left scores of guerrillas dead in the late 1980s, and the NPA massacre of about 40 members of a Protestant community in Mindanao island in 1989.

Thailand

Prime Minister Anan Continues Visit to Hong Kong

Urges Cooperation for Investment

BK2202075692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun has called on Hong Kong to cooperate with Thailand in providing a strong impetus to economic growth in the region. In his address to the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce at the Island Shangri-la Hotel in Hong Kong yesterday, Prime Minister Anan said as many of Hong Kong investors and financiers have been actively exploring opportunities in Indochina, especially Vietnam, the potential for cooperation between Thailand and Hong Kong is great. He said that Thai administration has long taken the approach that increasing economic activities with Indochina will be the key mechanism to pull these nations out of the stagnation of the past few decades.

Thailand's geographic location and close political ties with the Indochinese states place the country in an ideal position to play an important role in the economic reconstruction of the region.

The prime minister said Hong Kong has long been an important player in Southeast Asia although not being a member of ASEAN. In this regard, he urged Hong Kong to work together with ASEAN in creating a new and long-lasting regional order of peace and economic prosperity.

The prime minister added that the opening of the Board of Investment Hong Kong office represents only the first step towards developing stronger business linkages between Thailand and Hong Kong in the future.

Addresses Gathering of Businessmen

BK2202071992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Feb 92 pp 1 3

[Text] Hong Kong—Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun says he is confident the legal framework laid out by his Government will remain intact because it has the approval of the majority of the public.

Mr Anan, talking to a gathering of businessmen in Hong Kong, said the next administration still has the right to make changes to the measures introduced by his Government but this cannot be done easily.

"Any change will have to be done with the people's endorsement and in line with their wish," he said.

Asked to assess his achievements on the economic front, Mr Anan said when his government leaves office in April it will have accomplished basically what it set out to do in laying a legal framework essential to liberalise Thailand's financial market.

The only area half-accomplished in his view is an across-the-board reduction in tariffs for raw material imports.

Turning to the recent finding that some former Cabinet ministers, whose assets were probed, were found to be not unusually rich, Mr Anan said the investigation has been properly carried out and military figures have not influenced the decisions.

Asked if the decisions harm the democratic maturity of Thailand, Mr Anan said the Western concept of democracy remains, to an extent, an alien import to Asia.

Human rights is also a foreign concept.

While it is true Thailand is moving towards the Western model, the time-frame by which this is achieved cannot be dictated from without, but only from within, he said.

Asked to comment on the close relationships Thai military leaders have with their Burmese counterparts, the Prime Minsiter said "it is the job" of the military to have close contacts with all regional army heads such as those of Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.

He stressed close common borders as another reason for keeping good ties.

For diplomatic reasons, Thais are keen to have peace with the Burmese after a long history of war, Mr Anan said.

But he stressed he is aware of the Burmese situation.

"I wish the Burmese people could have more freedom," he said." I wish they would free Aug San Suu Kyi.

"But it is really not my business to tell them (Rangoon) what to do," he said.

"If a country wishes to go down the drain, that's up to them," Mr Anan said.

Turning to his own future, he plans to "take a rest" after the election.

Asked if he will return to the private sector, he said: "I suppose so."

He said the Board of Investment office in the Central District of Hong Kong is a key infrastructure system Thailand needs to attract foreign funds and to allow investment to push the country forwards in its efforts to modernise.

Returns, Reports Successful Trip

BK2302151992 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun returned from a visit to Hong Kong this afternoon. He reported at a news briefing in the VIP room of the Bangkok Airport that the visit was very successful. Thailand's just-opened Board of Investment Office in Hong Kong will be able to better provide information for foreign investors about prospects of investment in Thailand and will also promote a good understanding of Thailand. The office will also serve as a center of investment information for Thai businessmen desiring to invest in Hong Kong as well.

The prime minister said he had explained to businessmen in Hong Kong about the political situation, trade, and investment climate in Thailand at present. He said this should contribute to an expansion of investment between Thailand and Hong Kong. The new office will also facilitate the exchanges of news and information about investment which should be faster than in the past. He said that the businessmen from Hong Kong and Singapore whom he met during this trip expressed interest in investing in Thailand, both small and large-scale investment.

Board of Investments Opens Office in Hong Kong

BK2202062692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Police General Phao Sarasin yesterday declared open the new BoI [Board of Investment] office in Hong Kong. The office, on the 21st floor of the Alexander Building on Chater Road, has been rented at about 1.5 million baht a month manned by officials from the Board of Investment.

The BoI Hong Kong office serves both Thai and Hong Kong investors as well as those coming through Hong Kong for trade and investment in Southeast Asia. Opening the office, Deputy Prime Minister Phao said that it represented another milestone in the history of BoI's aim and endeavor in attracting investment into Thailand.

Tourism Cooperation Agreement Signed With Laos

BK2202013392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Feb 92 p 13

[Text] The Tourism Authority of Laos and the Tourism Authority of Thailand [TAT] yesterday signed a tourism cooperation agreement which will become a stepping stone for the establishment of tourism routes covering Thailand, Indochina and China.

The agreement was signed on behalf of Laos by authority director-general Amphonnali Keola, who said cooperation between Thailand and Laos was based on the strengthening of relations between the two countries and mutual benefits from tourism.

The agreement was a follow-up to another agreement signed by the prime ministers of both countries late last month.

Under the agreement signed yesterday, the Thai side would send staff to survey to tourist attractions in Laos, the results of which would later be discussed to draw up development plans for the future.

At the same time the TAT would sponsor teams of Laotian officers to observe works relating to tourism management and administration and to receive training in hotels and related businesses in Thailand.

Fifteen Laotian officers would receive training in Thailand for between two weeks and three months.

Mrs Keola said after the signing ceremony that Laos had learned lessons from Thailand's tourism experience and would do its best to maintain its natural and cultural resources.

Although tourism was considered an effective tool to generate foreign income for the country, Laos would not push for the greatest number of tourists, but would provide "quality tourism", she said.

There were currently only about 200 hotel rooms in Vientiane and about 80 rooms in Luang Prabang, which would limit the growth of tourism in Laos.

Mrs Keola said foreign investors had been invited to develop hotel projects in Laos but the demand for, and supply of, hotel rooms must always be balanced.

Laos already had a tourism cooperation agreement with Vietnam and the signing of the agreement with Thailand meant tourism should grow rapidly in the region, she said.

TAT governor Thammanun Prachuapmo said Thailand had a tourism cooperation agreement with China, which meant a group of neighbouring countries were now engaged in some form of cooperation.

Such agreements would make the development of tourist routes along the Mekong River from Cambodia to China possible, he said.

The TAT team, headed by TAT technical department director Wisit Sinawa would leave for Laos tomorrow to survey locations to set up a TAT Office in Laos.

The office's first director would be Prasoet Lolamai, who would mainly be responsible for cooperating with the Laotian side in developing tourism.

The two parties had also agreed to launch a selective policy concerning travel agents who could sell tour packages to Laos.

A number of Thai travel agents had reportedly failed to pay for hotel charges in Laos, which had tarnished Thailand's image.

Energy Authority Rejects Plan for Border Plant

BK2402021192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Feb 92 p 17

[Excerpt] The Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) has rejected a proposal by the Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT) to build a big power plant near the Thai-Burma borders that would utilise natural gas from Mataban Gulf in Burma.

EGAT cited security and safety as its prime reasons for rejecting the plan as the proposed site—the Three Pagoda Pass (about 450 kms northwest of Bangkok)—is prone to conflicts between central Burmese forces and the minority Karen and Mon separatists.

Senior EGAT officials said the risk of fighting spilling over to the Thai side was too great for the authority to proceed with the plan to install a gas-fired combined cycle plant with a minimum capacity of 300 megawatts near the border.

This was because an agreement to end the conflict in the area was unlikely to be reached in the near future.

PTT proposed the Three Pagoda Pass site because it is located at the end of a planned gas pipeline from future gas fields in the Mataban Gulf to the western Thai province of Kanchanaburi, a distance of 400 km.

The PTT will now have to consider other locations for the Thai power house, which will be the main consumer of natural gas it is seeking to harness from the Mataban Gulf in on-going negotiations with Rangoon.

Burma has alrady agreed in principle to the PTT taking a 30 percent stake in the offshore tracts M3, M5 and M6, where gas reserves have been estimated at 6.6 trillion cubic feet. [passage omitted]

Foreign Policy Shifts From Receiving to Giving

BK2102124092 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] The Thai Government begins to focus its policy on providing assistance to other countries rather than waiting for foreign aid. Minister to the Prime Minister's Office M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi says Thailand has already offered assistance to neighboring countries, ASEAN states, and Russian Federation. The assistance is in the form of food, management, technical, and economic program in various fields. Thailand has also agreed to provide a number of scholarships to Lao officials and students for short- and long-term studies here. The minister who supervises the Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation says foreign aid which has been suspended since the military takeover in February last year has started to flow in. Thailand will also conclude an agreement for foreign assistance in the next few days.

Prachakon Leader Launches Election Campaign

BK1802013392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Feb 92 pp 1, 3

[Text] Prachakon Thai Party leader Samak Suntharawet launched his campaign yesterday at Sanam Luang with an attack on the current administration and his political rival, Phlang Tham Party leader Chamlong Simuang.

Mr Samak told a large crowd of supporters the interim administration had rushed through a great many bills, many of them benefitting the industrial sector, an area closely associated with Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun.

Maj-Gen [Major-General] Chamlong came in for criticism for what Mr Samak claimed were his prime ministerial ambitions. This was despite his alleged failure to solve any of Bangkok's problems during his six-year tenure as governor.

Mr Samak was only mildly critical of the National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] for staging the coup d'etat last year.

Although the coup has caused serious damage to the country's economy, he said the NPKC appeared to recognise its mistakes and felt contrition.

The veteran politician said the Anan administration had proven it was answerable to the people and was not corrupt, but its one year in office had caused major problems for the country.

These problems include its approval for the multi-billion-baht expansion of the national telephone network.

The decision to over turn the contract already signed by the Chatchai Chunhawan administration and CP Telecom Co had deprived the Thai people of early benefits from the service.

He said the Government was still trying to decide how members of the previous administration had benefitted and how much CP Telecom had spent to obtain the contract.

Mr Samak also criticised the Government for pushing through more than 200 pieces of legislation, 180 of them aimed at benefitting the industrial sector. He went on to draw links with Mr Anan's previous role as president of the Federation of Thai Industries.

Only a small number of bills benefitted the agricultural sector.

Mr Samak said his party had entered politics with the aim of solving the country's problems following the coup d'etat.

He said the coup on February 23 last year had done the country a lot of damage.

Even the military had admitted the takeover had stalled economic growth and damaged the business climate.

Mr Samak said the military leaders had been forced to stage the coup or face dismissal—an apparent reference to reports that the Chatchai government was planning to replace key military leaders when the coup took place.

He said the military realised its action had been unacceptable to the rest of the world and so it had acted quickly in installing a civilian for an early election to prevent further damage to the country.

Mr Samak said the Government had been generous in giving each political party five and a half hours of television airtime, but he still thought he would be subject to heavy censorship.

"I have to use this stage at Sanam Luang to criticise the Government because it has done things which deserve criticism."

He said the cut in import duties on vehicles from 112 percent to 20 percent had adversely affected the local industry.

The scrapping of the 1,000 baht travel tax had also deprived the Government of 500 million baht in annual revenues.

"The Anan administration would have not survived if these bills were introduced by an elected parliament."

Mr Samak said Maj-Gen Chamlong had failed to solve any of Bangkok's problems.

He also said he was more suitable than Maj-Gen Chamlong to become prime minister as he has served as an MP [member of parliament] six times and had been a member of the Bangkok municipality for 14 years.

The Prachakon Thai Party [leader] closed his attack by saying Maj-Gen Chamlong had only served as secretary-general to the prime minister and had been Bangkok governor for only six years.

"Sensible people are able to judge who is most suitable," he said.

Paper Views Problems on Anniversary of Coup

BK2302020492 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Feb 92 p A11

[Editorial: "The Anniversary of NPKC's Failed Promises"]

[Text] On this day last year, air force commandos held then Premier Gen Chatchai Chunhawan and his entourage at gun point at Don Muang military airport. What was at first conceived as an attempt to stop Chatchai from firing then Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, snowballed into a full-fledged coup in a matter of hours when Chatchai—over-confident that the military leaders wouldn't dare seize government power—refused to budge.

He intended to stick to his daring decision to appoint Gen Athit Kamlang-ek as a deputy defence minister despite rumblings of discontent in military quarters. Athit, a former supreme commander and army chief, was not on good terms with Sunthon and Army Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun. Both Sunthon and Gen Suchinda seemed to believe that Chatchai was about to fire both of them, and Athit was brought into the picture in order to rally military support for the new supreme commander and army chief.

Without firing a single shot, Sunthon and Gen Suchinda prevailed in the power struggle and in the process toppled the Chatchai administration—the first civilian government headed by an MP in 12 years. What followed on that fateful day, particularly Sunthon fumbling during his first TV address announcing the coup, clearly testified that the coup leaders were poorly prepared. Yet they succeeded because the Chatchai administration had no popular support. Bickering inside the government coalition and persistent reports of corruption in high places alienated people from the Chatchai administration.

The lack of a popular movement to oppose the coup could be interpreted as a public's vote of no-confidence against the Chatchai administration. People were willing to give the coup leaders a chance to clean up the political process and punish corrupt politicians.

Unfortunately, the coup leaders, who called themselves the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC], were utterly unprepared to do any constructive thing with the government power they had. The NPKC leaders gave five justifications for the coup: rampant corruption, cover-up attempts in the assassination conspiracy, political interference in high-level government personnel transfer, development of a parliamentary dictatorship, and politicians' attempts to discredit military leaders and divide the military establishment.

But today, one year after the coup, the NPKC has failed dismally to make any significant progress in tackling these five problems.

The NPKC's appointed assets investigation committee did find Chatchai and seven others "unusually wealthy" while they were in power and froze about Bt1.5 billion of their assets, which will be confiscated if the eight lose their appeals in the supreme court. But the assets probe left virtually intact the root cause of corruption—the ineffective anti-corruption legal mechanisms, and the lack of accountability of ministers, military leaders and senior bureaucrats.

Two former communist insurgents were arrested in connection with the conspiracy to assassinate three national leaders. The two are standing trial in a military court. Other than this there has been virtually no progress in this mysterious conspiracy. And the NPKC seems satisfied to let it slip into oblivion.

To their credit, the NPKC leaders decided to name Anan Panyarachun the prime minister. But eight military leaders joined the Anan Cabinet and controlled the Interior and the Defence ministries. The NPKC swiftly moved to inactive posts senior police officers and bureaucrats who were close to the Chatchai administration, including Pol Maj Gen [Police Major General] Seri Temiyawet, commander of the Crime Suppression Division.

The military leaders on the NPKC also could dictate high-level military personnel reshuffle. In the past year, most of the middle-level command posts were filled by officers allied with Gen Suchinda's Class-5. Now Gen Suchinda is grooming his deputy and brother-in-law, Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, to be his successor in the Army. It is an open secret that Gen Suchinda's cohorts, who graduated from the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy in the Class-5 in 1957 want Gen Suchinda to assume the premiership so that they could remain in control of the Army, until at least till the end of this decade.

As it turned out, interference in high-level personnel reshuffle both in the government bureaucracy and the military by the powers-that-be was still commonplace. Perhaps the only visible difference was the absence of a hue and cry. The 11 judges facing a mass dismissal order of the Judicial Commission constituted one distinct exception. And Samran Thawarayut, who was removed from his post of secretary-general of the Office of the Civil Service Commission just a few months before his retirement, was another.

The coup leaders' charge that Chatchai's Chat Thai Party was trying to build a parliamentary dictatorship was obviously ludicrous. The NPKC's National Assembly—the interim legislative body—is in fact much closer to a parliamentary dictatorship than the Parliament during the Chatchai administration. Moreover, the NPKC intends to retain control of the next Parliament by handpicking 270 senators.

Lastly the charge that politicians were discrediting military leaders and creating rifts inside the armed forces was nothing new. Many politicians, especially those from the Democrat Party, are doing just that right now in their daily campaign. The military leaders hurt their own integrity more by making irresponsible statements and reneging on promises to return government power to people.

The NPKC leaders tend to claim credit for whatever the Anan administration has achieved. But if they are to be judged by what they promised to do to the five problems, they have failed miserably. Their failure should be a proof that no coups can clean up corruption and reform the political system.

Assets Panel Clears Chat Thai Secretary General

BK1602045092 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Feb 92 pp A1-A2

[Text] Banhan Sinlapa-acha, secretary general of the Chat Thai Party, was yesterday cleared by the military-appointed assets investigation committee of allegations of "unusually amassing" wealth throughout his term in previous Cabinets.

Banhan is the fourth politician to be given a "clean bill of wealth" in addition to Kon Thapparangsi, Chuchip Hansawat and Suchon Champunot. He made no attempt to conceal his relief yesterday.

"It was like the lifting of a mountain off my chest," declared the politician, using a Thai metaphor, upon returning from the campaign trail in his hometown province of Suphanburi.

The former minister hurried back from Suphanburi—where he had commanded the highest votes among contenders in recent elections in the province—and held a press conference to explain to reporters how he had been cleared by the committee.

"I had shown them all financial records such as bank accounts, property and stocks in companies," he said.

"I had consultations with Deputy Premier Michai Ruchuphan and he advised me to tell all to the investigation team," said the controversial political figure who was clearly jubilant at the news.

The committee said that there was insufficient evidence to show that the ex-minister, who had held many Cabinet posts, had acquired his assets through improper means. Besides, he had managed to show financial records to back his claims of legally-obtained affluence through business transactions.

Committee chairman, Gen Sit Chirarot, said he would order the prompt release of Banhan's assets as well as those belonging to his family, which had been frozen since February last year when investigations into possible ill-gotten gains by members of the previous Cabinet began.

"Banhan could explain clearly every point raised to the committee (regarding the source of his assets)," said Sit, adding that the former minister had not resorted to criticism as he was busy collecting evidence to submit to the committee.

Unlike other targets of the assets probe, Banhan maintained a relatively low profile and kept silent throughout while others made emotional outbursts and harshly criticised the way that investigations had been conducted into their assets.

Those venting their ire on the committee were declared unusually wealthy. But Banhan has made no headlines despite his publicly-known wealth and his role as a major financial supporter of the Chat Thai Party which has given him a lot of clout and a big following among party members.

Even before the yesterday's announcement, reports periodically filtered out of the committee that the Banhan stood a good chance of being excluded from the list of politicians whose wealth was questionable while holding public office.

Banhan, speaking to reporters at the Chat Thai headquarters at Saphan Khao, said he was relieved by the committee's ruling and now planned to expand his business empire, which had virtually been crippled during the past 12 months.

He pointed out that the increased assets during his Cabinet terms amounted to Bt [Thai Baht] 200 million. "I could show the records on my salaries and incomes from stock dividends, bank interest and stock transactions. The figures were accountable in detail and additional data required had been furnished by commercial banks," he said.

With documentary evidence presented with confidence, the committee should have had no difficulty in announcing that his wealth was not gained by improper means, he asserted.

Banhan said that after his assets are released, he intends to pursue business expansion. Among several of the major projects are a Bt2 billion plan to invest in the production of caustic soda and hydrochloric acid. So far, Bt1 billion has been invested in the scheme.

The project will involve salt mining by using modern equipment. Banhan showed more confidence when he said that he would be able to obtain support form financial institutions now that his assets have been cleared.

He asserted that his wealth had been amassed through business long before 1976, including hundreds of millions of baht in cash, and real estate valued at more than Bt1 billion. "In those days, I also had an export-import business," he pointed out.

He said it would not be unusual if the Finance Ministry wants to conduct an investigation into his tax payment record. "If there is any point, the ministry can just ask me," he said.

Speaking separately, Gen Sit said the amount of assets that belonged to Banhan, his wife and children increased by Bt236.6 million during his Cabinet term under the premiership of Gen Chatchai Chunhawan.

Moreover, Banhan's income prior to his holding ministerial posts was Bt152.7 million in the form of cash, dividends and interest earned from commercial banks and financial institutions. He also made a profit of Bt92.8 million from real estate and stock transactions, according to Sit.

"The investigation showed that Banhan ran various types of businesses in industry and real estate before he became interior minister," Sit said.

"He also has firm financial status. He had hundreds of millions of baht in banks and financial institutions before being appointed to ministerial posts."

In reference to gift cheques, Sit said none had been credited to the accounts of Banhan, his wife or his children. The committee found that a number of gift cheques were credited to the accounts of some businessmen with strong financial positions.

"We therefore concluded that the gift cheques were for payment in their real estate business," he said, adding that there was no evidence showing that the businessmen held those accounts on behalf of Banhan.

Mongkon Pao-in, a subcommittee chairman handling Banhan's case, said the investigation did not show any link between gift cheques worth some Bt100 million and Banhan's assets. The cheques belonged to others, he added.

Former Minister Declared 'Unusually Rich'

BK2302010592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] Former deputy interior minister Watthana Atsawahem has been declared "unusually rich" for receiving four million baht as a gift cheque from liquor industry businessmen, the Assets Examination Committee announced yesterday.

Mr Watthana later told a Press conference at his Phatthanakan Road home that he did not know where the money came from.

He said he received only one cheque from the Surathip Company and had told the committee the money was intended as a payment for tickets to a boxing match. He put the cheque in his account and learned later that it was a gift.

Committee chairman Gen Sitthi Chirarot told the Press that in addition to the confiscation of the four million baht Mr Watthana may be asked to explain the alleged 51.8 million baht-sale of 23,700 rai of land in a forest reserve in Sanam Chai Khet District, Chachoengsao Province.

Mr Watthana is deputy leader of the Chat Thai Party standing in Samut Prakan Constituency One in the general election.

He is the ninth politician to be declared "unusually wealthy" by the committee.

Mr Watthana told journalists he did not understand the finding of a cheque for four million baht.

"Take me to face a firing squad if that cheque really exists."

He said he felt sorry at being declared unusually rich for he believed he would have been cleared.

"I am confident I did nothing wrong when as deputy interior minister I was assigned to be in charge of the Corrections and Labour departments and the National Housing Authority.

"People all over the city laughed when they heard my four million baht would be confiscated. Four million baht for me is nothing. But I am sorry because I did not do anything wrong. I am nearly 60 and satisfied with what I have. I don't need to be corrupt."

Mr Watthana said he made a lot more money from organising boxing matches for former World Boxing Association junior bantamweight champions and could make more than four million baht by just selling a horse.

He said he also planned to donate 100 rai for a hospital.

Turning to the land cited by the committee, Mr Watthana said it belonged to a group of textile factories in Phra Pradaeng and he, as a Samut Prakan MP, was asked to act as the middleman in the land deals.

"I have already explained this to the committee and learned that police and Land Department officials went to examine the land. I thought it was all over," Mr Watthana said.

A document, Po Ko 5, had been issued to the group of textile companies to show their occupation rights, he said.

Vietnam

Relations With CIS Members Viewed

BK2202044592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Vietnam has (?expanded its) cooperation with the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]. The Voice of Vietnam contributes this comment on this issue:

The relations between Vietnam and the republics of the former Soviet Union are traditional and closely bound. Though new developments have taken place, their friendship and cooperation have continued to develop under different forms in conformity with the new situation.

On 9 September 1991, Vietnam recognized the three Baltic republics and established diplomatic relations with these countries. Recently, Vietnam established diplomatic relations with Uzbekistan, Ukraine, and Belarus, during the visit of the Vietnamese deputy foreign minister, Mr. Nguyen Dy Nien, who is also special envoy of the Vietnamese chairman of the Council of Ministers. The delegation met with and had talks with high-ranking officials of these countries with a view to strengthening the comprehensive cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, culture, science, and technology on the principle of mutual benefit. On this occasion, an agreement on trade, tourism, agriculture, and food industry between Vietnam and these three republics was signed.

In Uzbekistan, the two sides highly valued the direct bilateral cooperation over the past two years and agreed to promote these relations. In the immediate future, the two sides will enhance exchange of commodities such as cotton, rice, meat, and tea. In February, Uzbekistan will send a governmental delegation led by its agriculture minister to Vietnam to continue discussing and signing other agreements.

In Ukraine, the two sides signed an agreement on trade. Under this agreement, Vietnam and Ukraine will extend the exchange of (?essential) commodities, faciliating direct relations between businesses of the two countries.

In Belarus, (?its trade minister) expressed the desire to step up cooperation in growing and processing natural rubber, tea, agricultural products, and other consumer goods. They are ready to supply Vietnam with fertilizer, tractors, and trucks.

The Russian Federation also said that it would maintain diplomatic relations with Vietnam and affirmed the desire to strengthen the friendship and cooperation for mutual benefit in the new condition, laying an emphasis on economic and trade relations and direct contact between production and business units.

Mr. Nguyen Dy Nien, on behalf of the Vietnamese Government, invited a delegation of the Russian Federation to visit Vietnam to exchange views on relations and other issues of mutual concern. During talks between the Vietnamese and Russian delegations, the two sides pointed to the necessity to continue promoting relations in new aspects with new mechanism and suitable form, and maintained the exchange of views and cooperation in international and regional issues, especially those in Asia and the Pacific. The Russian side affirmed its responsibility to protect the interests of Vietnamese workers at Russian enterprises in the current situation. The two sides agreed to meet again as early as possible to sign related agreements.

Public opinion noted that the visit of the Vietnamese special envoy, Mr. Nguyen Dy Nien, ushered in a new era in relations between Vietnam and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Doan Khue Greets CIS Armed Forces Anniversary

BK2402030992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] On the occasion of the 74th anniversary of the Armed Forces Day of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS], 23 February 1918 to 23 February 1992, General Doan Khue, minister of national defense of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, sent a congratulatory message to Marshal Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of the CIS armed forces. The message says: On the occasion of the 74th founding anniversary of the Armed Forces of the CIS, on behalf of the entire cadres and combatants of the Vietnam People's Army and on my own behalf, I would like to convey to Your Excellency and through you to the Armed Forces of the CIS, my warmest greetings.

I wish the traditional solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between our two peoples and Armed Forces will be further developed for the interest of people in each country and for peace and stability in the world.

Spokeswoman's 20 Feb Statements Reviewed

BK2102122392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] At the press conference held in Hanoi on Thursday [20 February], Mrs Ho The Lan, spokeswoman for the Foreign Ministry, said: As in the past, Vietnam recognizes the government of the People's Republic of China as the only legitimate government representing the whole of China. Taiwan is part of China's indivisible territory. The relations between Vietnam and Taiwan are non-governmental, economic and commercial relations. Relations in specific fields including air transport will be implemented in the abovesaid spirit.

The spokeswoman also said: The purpose of the forthcoming visit to Beijing by Minister of Post, Transport and Communications Bui Danh Luu will be to sign agreements on post, transport and communications between the two countries. She said she hoped that the trip would be made next month.

Asked by AFP [AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE] what was Vietnam's comment on Michael Honorin's February 13 report on French TV Antenna 2 that Vietnam is still detaining 72 American POWs, she said: On February 19, the Vietnam office for the search of U.S. servicemen missing in action sent a note to the U.S. MIA office in Hanoi saying that the Vietnam office fully dismissed Michael Honorin's claim. The fact is that the 72 Americans stranded in South Vietnam after the war were not prisoners and all have been returned to the U.S. Government. She said that fabricating such a story is an ill-intentioned act toward Vietnam and an irresponsible act toward the American people.

Mrs Ho The Lan also said that at present joint searches for MIAs are continuing and will last until March 20th in a number of Vietnamese provinces.

On the repatriation of illegal migrants now staying in Hong Kong, Mrs Ho The Lan said: Despite many difficulties in the reception and especially the reintegration of the repatriates, out of humanitarian considerations Vietnam is ready to take back those illegal migrants who are refused asylum. We do this on the basis of respect for their dignity. We want an orderly repatriation with the necessary financial assistance from other countries and international organisations.

She noted that Vietnam has taken back 21,000 repatriates and created favorable conditions for them to reintegrate themselves in the community at home without being punished or discriminated against in any way.

She said that according to the High Commissioner for Refugees, the number of illegal migrants has dropped considerably from 3,000 to 4,000 in the previous months to 43 in November and 130 in December 1991. The figure was still decreasing in early 1992.

In a related issue, Mrs. Ho The Lan referred to the Vietnamese trainees and guest workers who had chosen to remain in foreign countries, especially in Eastern Europe, or who had settled in a third country for one reason or another. She said: This is also a complicated question of a humanitarian nature which needs to be discussed among concerned countries with a view to a satisfactory solution. Vietnam proposes that the concerned countries, out of humanity and consideration for the aspiration of these people, either allow them to remain there and earn their living or, if possible, allow them to go to a third country for family reunion.

Vice President Receives Japanese Lawyers

BK2102151992 Hanoi VNA in English 1508 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 21—State Council Vice President Nguyen Huu Tho received here this afternoon the Japanese lawyers' delegation led by Kazuyoshi Saito, vice president of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) and vice president of the Japan Lawyers International Solidarity Association (JALISA).

With Nguyen Huu Tho was Phung Van Tuu, National Assembly vice chairman and secretary general of the Vietnam Lawyers' Association.

Both host and guest expressed the wish for the strengthening and expansion of the relations of cooperation and mutual assistance between the two juridical associations in order to contribute to national construction of the two countries.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Estonia

BK2102151392 Hanoi VNA in English 1456 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 21—Vietnam and Estonia have signed a protocol establishing diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level.

The protocol was signed in Moscow on Feb. 20 by Vietnamese Charge d'Affaires in Russia Doan Thang and Estonian Ambassador in Russia J. Kahn.

Agriculture, Industry Minister Visits India

BK2102045192 Hanoi VNA in English 0552 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 21—Minister of Agriculture and Industry Nguyen Cong Tan has paid an official visit to India at the invitation of Indian Minister of Agriculture Balram Jakhar.

While there, Minister Nguyen Cong Tan attended the 21st Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) regional conference for Asia and the Pacific held in New Delhi from February 10-14.

In his speech delivered at the conference, Minister Nguyen Cong Tan recalled Vietnam's efforts to overcome difficulties to increase its food output from 21.5 million tonnes in 1990 to 21.7 million tonnes in 1991.

Minister Nguyen Cong Tan held talks with Minister Balram Jakhar on how to promote the agricultural cooperation between the two countries.

Minister Nguyen Cong Tan also had a working session with V.L. Chopra, secretary general of the Council Agricultural Research (CAR), during which they agreed on strengthening cooperation between the two countries in exchanging scientific information and bio-technology carrying out joint researches on crop strains and animal breeds, particularly rice, maize, cotton hybrids and dairy buffaloes. The Indian side agreed to train post-graduates in agriculture for Vietnam.

Minister Nguyen Cong Tan also had working sessions with the leadership of the Project and Equipment Cooperation (PEC), and visited a tea processing establishment in Calcutta, the Karna Institute of Milk Research and the fruit processing plant in New Delhi.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Thai Businessmen

BK2102152992 Hanoi VNA in English 1517 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 21—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet received here today Mr. Thanin Chirawanon, president of Thailand's C.P. Group and his party who are visiting Vietnam at the invitation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry.

Present on the occasion was Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry Nguyen Cong Tan.

Mr. Thanin briefed Chairman Vo Van Kiet about a number of projects of cooperation with Vietnam in agriculture such as maize and soya bean planting, shrimp rearing, poultry breeding, fodder processing, etc. The maize development project in particular, aims to raise Vietnam's production from 800,000 tonnes to one million tonnes per year. The poultry project aims at 30,000 tonnes of poultry meat for export per annum.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet wished C.P Group success in its cooperation with Vietnam for the prosperity of both countries.

On this occasion, 10 tonnes of high-yield maize seeds presented to Chairman Vo Van Kiet by the group on the occasion of the latter's visit to Thailand in October 1991 have arrived in Vietnam.

Receives Indosuez Bank President

BK2202061592 Hanoi VNA in English 0601 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA 22 February— Chairman Vo Van Kiet of the Council of Ministers received here yesterday afternoon a visiting Indosuez Bank delegation of France led by president and general director Antoine Jeancourt Galignani.

The Indosuez president and general director expressed thanks to the Vietnamese Government and Chairman Vo Van Kiet himself for having created favorable conditions for his bank to promote cooperation with Vietnam, particularly its agreement to let Indosuez open a branch office in the country.

Indosuez, a commercial stock bank of France, has funded a number of Vietnam's projects including the Thong Nhat-Metropole Hotel in Hanoi, the [word indistinct] post and communication service, and the Thu Duc thermo-electric power plant in Ho Chi Minh City.

Mr. Galignani said that Indosuez would soon put its Vietnam branch into operation and, through this branch, broaden cooperation between the banking systems of the two countries to help Vietnam's economic development.

For his part, Chairman Vo Van Kiet appreciated Indosuez's help to Vietnam in funding some development projects, training personnel, etc. He expressed his wish that following the president's visit and the opining of the Indosuez branch in Vietnam, the cooperation between the two countries' [word indistinct] service would be further developed and Indosuez's investment promoted in accordance with the aspirations of the two peoples.

Receives Malaysian Businessmen

BK2202152092 Hanoi VNA in English 1445 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb.22—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet received here today Eric Chia, president of the Malaysian steel company Perwaja and a number of directors of the company now on a visit to Vietnam.

Mr. Eric Chia told Chairman Vo Van Kiet that he wanted to study possibilities of cooperation and discuss measures to set up joint ventures between his company and the Vietnam Steel Corporation as requested by Malaysian Premier Mahathir Mohamad" [no opening quotation mark as received].

Chairman Vo Van Kiet took this opportunity to introduce Vietnam's project of building a 500kv high-voltage line from the north to the south and expressed his wish that Perwaja and othe Malaysian companies would cooperate with Vietnam in this project.

Eric Chia promised that he would study the possibility of cooperating with Vietnam in this project.

New Joint Business Council With Australia Noted

BK1902070192 Hanoi VNA in English 0550 GMT 19 Feb 92

[All quotations as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 19—An Australia-Vietnam business council is to be set up to help in the restructuring of Vietnam's economy, the Confederation of Australian Industry (CAL) announced in Canberra on Monday.

CAL International Director General Malcolm Overland was quoted by AFP as saying that about 30 Australian companies had indicated support for the council, which is expected to be operational by early April.

The move follows the recent appointment of a trade commissioner to Hanoi by the Australian Government trade promotion group Austrade.

The new council would help by identifying bureaucrats for Australian business to approach for permits, and by eventually "matchmaking" opportunities with businesses.

"The council will implement an active campaign to promote within the Vietnamese Government the capabilities of Australian companies to participate in the economic restructuring under way in Vietnam", Overland said.

"The council will be able to make significant inputs to the trade and investment policy deliberations of the Australian Government regarding Vietnam.

"It is envisaged that there will be considerable work to be done in clarifying and developing a framework of business law and practice between the two countries, particularly in such areas as tax and investment guidelines."

Nguyen Dy Nien Chairs UNESCO Meeting

BK2102154392 Hanoi VNA in English 1501 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 21—The Vietnam UNESCO Committee yesterday held its plenum here under the chairmanship of Nguyen Dy Nien, chairman of the committee, to review its work in 1991 and set the direction for the 1992 tasks.

Attending the meeting were the vice chairmen of the committee, and representatives of the 13 UNESCO-aided national programmes.

The meeting noted the practicability and effectiveness of the activities of the Vietnam UNESCO Committee and the concerned branches in 1991, especially in cooperation with other countries in the Asian-Pacific region, in order to make full use of the intellectual potentials of UNESCO in culture, education, science and telecommunication.

The meeting welcomed the Vietnamese Government's decision to establish the National Committee for International Cultural Development Decade and positive response to UNESCO's programme for the decade (1988-1997).

The meeting discussed preparations for the reception of a delegation led by the UNESCO general director in late March and for an Asian-Pacific workshop on questions of a delegation led by the UNESCO general director in late March and for an Asian-Pacific workshop on questions of culture and development to be hosted by Vietnam.

Vo Chi Cong Calls on War Veterans Association

BK1902131992 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] On the morning of 15 February 1992, Comrade Vo Chi Cong, advisor to the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State, visited the Vietnam War Veterans Association provisional executive committee. On behalf of the Vietnam War Veterans Association provisional executive committee, Senior Lieutenant General Song Hao, secretary of the party group within the Youth Union and chairman ad interim of the Vietnam War Veterans Association Central Committee, briefed Chairman Vo Chi Cong on the association's activities two years after its inception.

So far, the association at all levels has admitted 500,000 out of more than four million war veterans. Mr. Bui Xuan Sinh, former leader of the Bac Son Guerrilla Unit, has still volunteered to join the association at 99 years of age. At present, the association organizations at all levels are preparing for the first national Vietnam War Veterans Congress.

On behalf of the party and state, Chairman Vo Chi Cong warmly commended the association for its efforts and achievements over the past two years following its establishment. He asserted the confidence of the party and state in the revolutionary nature of the comrade association members who have always maintained the traditions of the Vietnam People's Army, thus proving themselves worthy of being Uncle Ho's soldiers.

The chairman wished the Vietnam War Veterans Association greater achievements in all areas of operations and conveyed the New Year greetings of the party and state to all association members and war veterans nationwide. He cordially exchanged views with and inquired about the well-being of Comrade Vo Du, Comrade Hoang Dang Tung, Comrade Pham Duc Si, and

Comrade Le Thuy, who were veteran fighters and former members of the Ba To Guerrilla Unit, the Red Security Force, the National Salvation Army, and the Liberation Army.

Do Muoi Visits Ho Chi Minh City

BK2002162192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Report by station correspondent Tran Trong Chuy reports on Do Muoi's visit to Ho Chi Minh City in first half of February 1992; portion recorded]

[Text] Dear friends,

In the first two weeks of February, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi paid a working visit to Ho Chi Minh City to study its party building work.

Working with the general secretary were Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, adviser to the party Central Committee; Comrades Dao Duy Tung, Le Phuoc Tho, Vo Tran Chi, and Truong My Hoa from the party Political Bureau and Secretariat; comrades from the party Central Committee in charge of the organization and proselytizing work; and specialists from some party departments.

The general secretary listened to reports from cadres doing the party work in different fields, including party central organs, departments, and sectors deployed in Ho Chi Minh City and the Ministry of Water Conservancy, Ministry of Public Health, Vietnam State Bank, Vietnam Women Federation, Vietnam Ideology and Culture Department, Social Science Institute, and the Vietnam Science Institute in Ho Chi Minh City. He listened to reports from representatives of the economic sector including secretaries, managers, and deputy managers of industrial, commercial, construction, education, and public transport and secretaries and managers of economic units which have been performing well such as the Thanh Cong Weaving Company, Long An Weaving Company, Lipsin Printing Enterprise, Vietnam Tobacco Incorporated Enterprise, Ho Chi Minh City Goods Trading Company, Ceramic Tile Export Factory, Food General Company, Vietsovpetro Joint Venture, and the Import-Export General Company.

The general secretary also heard reports from comrades doing party work in mass organizations such as workers, women, and youth unions and the Vietnam Fatherland Front and from secretaries and rectors of Ho Chi Minh City universities including the Polytechnic, Architecture, Economics, Agriculture and Forest, Teachers, Pharmacy, and Medical universities and the Thong Nhat hospital. The representatives of party committees, people's council of precincts, districts, and some sub-wards and villages of Ho Chi Minh City also reported to the general secretary on their party work.

During his working visit, Comrade Do Muoi and comrades from the party Political Bureau and Secretariat mainly listened to reports from cadres doing party work in Ho Chi Minh City. They did not offer any statements, remarks, or conclusions on issues mentioned by Ho Chi Minh City cadres.

As a journalist taking part in the working sessions and listening to statements of Ho Chi Minh City cadres, we would like to present some of these issues and offer some individual remarks as follow:

First, all statements agreed that most of party members and committees have firmly maintained the leadership role of the party. The world political situation has been changing but most party members have had firm confidence in the correctness of the sixth and seventh party congress resolutions.

The key and vanguard role of party committee members in all fields is the factor to guarantee the political and social stability and local economic development. The economic and science research units with a strong party committe have been doing well with increasing efficiency and production despite facing finance and material shortage, price fluctuation, and marketing reduction. They have been able to create some savings for equipment renewal, production expansion, job creation, and workers' life improvement.

The Thanh Cong Weaving Company, for example, has increased its investment to bring the productivity of 4.2 million meters of fabric to 20 million meters in a short time with its own capital. Due to quality improvement, the company has broadened its world market, balanced its import and export volume, and paid more tax to the national budget. In 1991, the company continued its development, paid more than seven billion dong to the national budget, expanded its production line, produced more than 12,000 meters of extra fabric, and collected 10 million dollars from export.

The Long An Weaving Enterprise, Phong Phu Weaving Enterprise, Vietsovpetro Joint Venture, Import-Export General Company, Food General Company, science research centers, and so forth are also on the developing path, extricating themselves from stagnation, and doing business with increasingly better efficiency. These achievements have further proved the comprehensive leading role of the party over the renovation undertaking, in general, and over the successful activities of these units, in particular.

However, the statements on the Ho Chi Minh City party work also mentioned some problems. A large part of party cadres, particularly party committee secretaries, have not been able to differentiate their management role and authority as a main leader or a management participant, who totally depends on the unit head's decision. That problem is due to the personnel work or erroneous perception that assumes speciality is not of the party and the party only performs the control and supervision work. In some other units, the party's leadership role is fading because they assign people who lack professional knowledge and good health or who have more spare time to take care of the party work. In some units, they even appoint party members only in supplementing sections such as security guard or administration. Moreover, income for people doing party work is normally lower than people doing government work. The secretary's salary is often lower than that of a manager. When granting academic titles in scientific research, the government only considers the speciality but does not consider that some scientists have to spend time to do party work thus limiting their time in doing scientific research and improving their professional knowledge.

For the aforementioned reasons, in reality some party members do not want to do party work, and a part of the public does not want to strive to join the party.

Many people have raised and analyzed various questions of much concern in the relationship between the party and the administration and wondered whether the party or the administration is leading and controlling. They also mentioned the relations between party bases and among party committee echelons; between party organizations of central agencies and those of local agencies; between party organizations of production installations and those of using, distribution and circulation agencies; and between the party organizations of local administrations and the party organizations and chapters of lower levels and so forth.

As a matter of fact, coordination of action among party committee echelons seems to be lacking. Some production and business installations have even caused difficulties to one another with the attitude of everyone for himself. They do not pull together to solve the problems and only seek profits for their own units. Those goods that sell well are siphoned off to the free market and the unpopular goods are sent to state shops and so on.

Retired cadres and party members often complain about the difficult life and delay in getting their pay. This is somewhat true. Yet, many party organizations and chapters seem to be lacking coordination with one another in the campaign and struggle against illicit business, smuggling, and tax evasion and consider it the task of others because they have not realized that the shortages of funds to pay teachers, troops, policemen and so forth are partly due to tax evasion and cheating.

Many people said that a number of party members and cadres of poor professional ability have become passive in their leadership and they petitioned the party and state to invest in training party cadres to renovate party leadership over the new tasks in the new situation. To sum up, views expressed by the representatives of some party bases in Ho Chi Minh city centered on the following main issues: The real status of party tasks in party bases; the role of party leadership over production, business and distribution; the relations between the party and the administration and among party organization echelons; the systems and conditions for party cadres to work and the authority of people doing the party tasks, the party leadership over the mass organizations such as unions of trade, youth and women and the fatherland front; the theoretical research of Marxism-Leninism, the cadre and organizational tasks in various party bases, and those issues to be renovated in the party tasks.

Besides working with those in charge of party tasks in Ho Chi Minh City, General Secretary Do Muoi also paid working visits to some wards and urban and suburban precincts, and personally contacted some cadres, party members, people, priests, and faithful. As a result of such close meetings and openess, party members as well as the people sincerely and frankly voiced their feelings and thoughts about the party and the general secretary. During these meetings and conversations, the general secretary repeatedly stressed that all the works and efforts of the party and his own only aimed to make our state truly of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Here below is a portion of his open and heartfelt conversation that reflects his aspirations for and demands on the party organizations and people in Tan Binh District where 90 percent of the people are Catholic. The general secretary said:

[Begin recording] [indistinct for two minutes] all our compatriots can have plenty of food and clothing, a job and a house. Is that an ideal? Do you agree with me? To do so, by all means, we must reduce gradually the population growth. [end recording]

General Secretary Do Muoi's working visit to Ho Chi Minh City has left behind much affectionate feelings among the party organization members and the city people. Certainly, the various statements and reports by representatives of the party organizations in the city bearing our Uncle's name, which the general secretary had heard, would help the comrade arrive at important conclusions concerning the party development task and preparations for the agenda of the of the party Central Committee's third conference to be held soon.

Extends Tet Greetings to NHAN DAN

BK2102124192 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 1 Feb 92 pp 1, 4

[Tet greetings from Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, to the paper NHAN DAN; date not given]

[Text] Dear comrades:

NHAN DAN—the party journal—began the 1991 Tan Mui [year of the goat] new year with the commemoration of its 40th anniversary. On that occasion, I visited you, comrades, and affirmed that NHAN DAN is the vanguard fighter on the party ideological and media front. I also told you that I was very proud of the journal and of its tradition and important contributions to the revolutionary undertaking of our party and people and commended those in charge of the party journal for their unswerving loyalty to the party, devotion to their work, and honesty to their profession. On that occasion, on behalf of the party, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh highly appraised the cause of the journal. He also gave many thoughtful and practical instructions to those in charge of the journal.

Today, as we are about to embark on the Nham Than [year of the monkey] new year, I again visit you, comrades, and am very happy to note that in the past year NHAN DAN has exerted great efforts to improve its contents, firmly grasp the actual situation, and promptly raise many issues in life, thereby contributing positively to the country's process of renovation. You, comrades, have fulfilled the promise you made to me, that is, to turn the printing methods completely into the offset mode and to successfully experiment with and apply information science. I would like to thank and commend you for being honest to me. The new offset machine that I promised to give you has already been ordered and will be brought to you soon.

Apart from the good deeds, you probably have seen by yourselves that many tasks still have not yet been carried out satisfactorily or have not been carried out at all. There are also shortcomings that we must overcome in the new year in order to make it possible for NHAN DAN to fulfill its tasks in the new stage, thus satisfying what the people need in the party journal.

I have learned that the editorial staff has designed a platform to improve the party journal in all four aspects:

1. Update the contents of the journal; expound more profoundly all the problems of life (both at home and abroad); reflect comprehensively all fields of activity of the country; and further enhance the militancy and nationwide popularity of the party journal;

2. Enhance the forms of printing and arranging the paper to make it look more beautiful and attractive;

3. Build up a contingent of cadres who can work in unity and with unanimity and pay attention to training and fostering correspondents who can gain prestige in the press circles;

4. Continue building material and technical bases; eliminate backwardness in techniques, facilities, and work methods; elevate financial status; and struggle to modernize technical patterns step by step.

I support that platform and hope that you, comrades, will implement it satisfactorily. I also hope that NHAN DAN will provide more valuable articles, further enhance its militancy, stay closer to life, have many reliable correspondents, earn more confidence from its readers, and increase its circulation throughout the country.

As a party journal, NHAN DAN must increasingly elevate the party's character and accurately interpret the party's voice. Because it is also the people's journal, NHAN DAN must reflect even more profoundly the people's character and accurately intepret the people's voice.

On the occasion of the new year, may I wish the editorial staff and all cadres, personnel, collaborators, and readers of NHAN DAN good health, happiness, and many still greater successes so that, together with the people throughout the country, they will resolutely and successfully implement the resolutions of the seventh national party congress.

Extends Greetings to Army Paper

BK2102143592 Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 2 Feb 92 p 2

[30 January Tet greetings from Do Muoi, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee, to QUAN DOI NHAN DAN]

[Text] On the occasion of the 1992 Nham Than [year of the monkey] lunar new year, I hope that all the cadres and combatants of the heroic Vietnam People's Army will develop their glorious tradition—"Be loyal to the country, party, and people and be ready to fight for national independence and freedom and for socialism; fulfill all tasks, overcome all difficulties, and defeat all enemies"—to join the entire party and people in the struggle to successfully implement the resolutions of the seventh national congress, thus remaing always worthy of the title of Uncle Ho's soldiers.

I hope that QUAN DOI NHAN DAN—a party journal in the armed forces—will struggle constantly to improve its quality and efficiency to make itself worthy of being the assault soldier on the ideological and cultural front and a true and close friend of the armed forces and the people throughout the country. This is aimed at contributing positively to firmly maintaining political stability and successfully carrying out the process of renovation.

May I wish all the cadres, correspondents, editors, workers, personnel, collaborators, reporters, and readers of QUAN DOI NHAN DAN and other press or publishing organs in the Army good health, happiness, unity, progress, and many new and still greater successes in the new year.

Doan Khue Greets Artillery Officers School

BK2102110592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 17 Feb 92

[National Defense Minister Doan Khue's letter to the Artillery Officers School on its 35th founding anniversary—date not given]

[Text] Dear comrades: On the 35th founding anniversary of the Artillery Officers School, 18 February 1957 to 18 February 1992, on behalf of the Military Commission of the party Central Committee and the Ministry of National Defense, I cordially convey my kind regards and warm greetings to all cadres, teachers, students, combatants, defense workers, sick and wounded soldiers, families of fallen combatants, and retired school officials.

In the past 35 years of building and developing the school—under the leadership of the glorious Communist Party of Vietnam and esteemed President Ho Chi Minh, and with the support and assistance from party organizations, the administration, and people in localities—generations of cadres, teachers, students, combatants, and defense workers of the school have consistently developed the revolutionary nature and glorious tradition of the Vietnam People's Army [VPA] and of the heroic artillery corps. The school has consistently strengthened cadre and personnel unity, and has strived to overcome all difficulties and hardship, struggled unyieldingly, upheld the spirit of self-reliance, and worked creatively and actively to fulfill all assigned tasks. It has trained and forged tens of thousands of artillery cadres and thousands of reserved artillery officers for the localities. It has also conducted research to improve military artillery science in Vietnam, coordinated with friendly units fighting in various battlefields to score outstanding exploits, contributed positively to national liberation and unification, built and defended the socialist fatherland, gloriously fulfilled lofty international obligations, and enhanced the traditional title of unyielding struggle and triumphant combat accorded to the artillery corps by Uncle Ho.

During the years of peaceful reconstruction, the Artillery Officers School has applied the idea of renovation set by the Sixth CPV Congress to develop and stabilize its political and ideological work. At the same time, it is satisfactorily carrying out educational reform and gradually enhancing the quality of its training to build, standardize, and modernize the school.

In scientific research, its many good training models and methods have been commended by the Ministry of National Defense. They have been widely studied and applied by units in the entire Army. The school has also satisfactorily maintained good ties with local party organizations, the administration, the people, and organizations and schools in and outside the Army.

With these outstanding military exploits and achievements, the Artillery Officers School has been bestowed with many orders, medals, and other awards by the party, Uncle Ho, the state, and the Army.

On this occasion, I highly commend generations of cadres, teachers, students, combatants, and defense workers of the school for their achievements in the past 35 years.

Dear comrades, under the party leadership, our nation's renovation has scored initial and important achievements, thereby opening up new possibilities for development. However, difficulties and ordeals are still prevalent. To implement the Seventh CPV Congress resolution as well as resolutions of the party Central Committee and its Military Commission, you should strive to firmly grasp and seriously implement party and state lines and policies, satisfactorily carry out the national defense task in the new situation, maintain a firm political stand, uphold the socialist ideal, develop school traditions, and further its achievements. The school should strive to consistently renovate and perfect its training and teaching methods, improve the quality of teaching and learning, work creatively and actively, uphold the spirit of self-reliance and responsibility in the management and use of military equipment and material-technical bases; continue to participate in productive labor and in improving the daily life of cadres, teachers, students, combatants, and defense workers; satisfactorily carry out policies on broadening democracy, strengthen discipline, enhance unity, and make the school firm and strong in all aspects; strive to fulfill all assigned tasks; and contribute, together with the entire party, people, and Army, to build and defend the socialist Vietnamese fatherland.

I wish you comrades good health and ever greater achievements in the new revolutionary stage.

My cordial and determined-to-win salutations to all

Le Quang Dao Visits Labor Protection Institute

BK2102140392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] During the new year, Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly and vice chairman of the Council of State, paid a working visit to the Institute for Scientific Research on Labor Protection. The institute is an organ of the Vietnam Workers Federation.

On behalf of the National Assembly and Council of State, Chairman Le Quang Dao hailed its staff for their efforts to complete many national projects and scientific programs. The chairman also commended them for applying scientific research to production, their education and instruction programs in labor safety at grassroots levels, and their self-reliance and cooperation in obtaining more equipment for research.

He reminded the staff to increase their contacts internationally, to satisfactorily apply the results of scientific and technological research to production, and to limit accidents at work and vocational diseases to help increase productivity.

Hanoi Plans To Build Special Economic Zones

BK2402101692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0919 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi, Feb 24 (AFP)—Vietnam plans to build special "export processing zones" [EPZ] this year in Haiphong and Da Nang as part of a strategy to attract and spread foreign investment throughout the country.

The northern and central zones will complement the 300-hectare (750-acre) Tan Thuan EPZ that got under construction last week in southern Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City, State Committee for Cooperation and Investment (SCCI) Vice Chairman Nguyen Mai said.

Industrial companies setting up shop in the EPZ will be exempted from tax for their first four profitable years. They will subsequently be subject to a 10 percent profits tax. Non-industrial firms will pay a 15 percent tax, with an unspecified reduction in the first years, Mai said in a report published Monday in the daily HANOI MOI newspaper.

Firms locating in Hanoi will also benefit from tax breaks and other incentives "in order to build a modern capital," Mai said. The same policy will apply to less developed areas of the country.

Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, has outpaced the rest of the country in attracting foreign business since communist-led Vietnam implemented a liberal foreign investment law in 1988.

The southern city's economy should be further boosted by the Tan Thuan EPZ, a 30-million-dollar joint venture between two Taiwan firms and the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee. The venture will also build a 17-kilometer (11-mile) road linking the riverside industrial park to the main highway, Route 1. Borrowing will push the project's total capital above 140 million dollars.

Mai, whose SCCI received Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's blessing last week as "the only door" to foreign investment in Vietnam, also said that credit problems should ease this year as six foreign banks open branches in Vietnam. The banks that have so far received authorization in principle are Banque Indosuez, Banque Nationale de Paris, Credit Lyonnais, Banque Francaise de Commerce Exterieur, Australia's ANZ Bank and Bangkok Bank. He said he hoped that other banks would consider investing and opening branches in Vietnam.

Mai also vowed to trim the red tape that has snarled many business projects here, saying authorities would smooth procedures for obtaining visas, internal travel authorization, residence permits and business licenses.

Foreign investment in Vietnam has hit 2.76 billion dollars since 1988, with 383 million in January alone, Mai said. Agriculture and forestry have attracted 28.2 percent of the investment, followed by services and tourism with 25.6 percent and petroleum with 21.3 percent. Taiwan was the leading foreign investor at the end of 1991, followed by Hong Kong, Australia and France.

In other developments, the government authorized two banks to accept deposits and make loans in Vietnamese dong that would follow the price of gold or U.S. dollars, the official NHAN DAN reported.

The Public Commercial Bank and the Investment and Development Bank will pay standard interest to depositors, who will no longer lose out if the dong plunges in value while their savings are in the bank. The State Bank has succeeded in stabilizing the dong since December but many Vietnamese still prefer to hold their savings at home in gold or dollars, contributing to a credit crunch.

Nationwide Winter-Spring Rice Crop Planted

BK2402092592 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, as of 15 February 1992 there have been 2,070,930 hectares of winter-spring rice crop planted nationwide, fulfilling 94.39 percent of the plan.

The northern provinces have planted 986,420 hectares, fulfilling more than 82 percent of the plan. The southern provinces have planted 1,174,510 hectares, overfulfilling the plan by 5.62 percent.

In the Mekong River Delta provinces, the cultivation plan was overfulfilled by 9.41 percent. The provinces of the Central Coast and the West Highlands have basically completed their planting. The eastern provinces of South Vietnam are also completing their summer-spring rice crop cultivation.

Generally speaking, the national summer-spring rice crop is developing well. However, In the northern provinces, rice blast is occurring and is affecting 30 to 50 percent of the crop that was planted with new rice strains of 13.2 MUT, CR203, and DT10. Grass leaf rollers have damaged the rice crop at a low level. Brown planthoppers and rice planthoppers are gradually appearing more on newly planted crops. In South Vietnam, brown planthoppers have damaged about 120,000 hectares of the rice crop, slightly more than at the same time last year. Rice blast is effecting more rice crop in the central provinces. In the Mekong River Delta provinces, there are about 60,000 hectares of rice crop infected with rice blast, doubling last year's figure. Rice yellows have also occurred in the central provinces, especially in Quang Nam-Da Nang, Quang Ngai, and Phu Yen.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry has reminded the northern provinces to keep a good level of water for the newly planted crop so it can improve its resistance against insects and disease. The ministry has also urged the provinces to complete the planting of their fifth-month spring rice crop during the warm days.

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